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## REFORM PROJECTS.

We may expect this Session to see every possible mode of dealing with the franchise brought before Parliament. Some are in favour of extending it in a downward direction, others

propose to spread it out sideways; but no one thinks for a moment of leaving it as it now stands. Notwithstanding the antiquity of representation as a practice, its theory has been very little studied in England until quite recently. Even in

1831 scarcely a word was said about such questions as the abstract right of a man to vote; the claims of minorities not to be utterly swamped by majorities—as in boroughs where 501 electors may be represented by two Ministerial members,



FROZEN OUT: A WINTER SKETCH.—(DRAWN BY ALFRED SLADER.)



while 499 other electors, who have voted for Opposition candidates, may be left without any representatives at all; the absurdity of intrusting the choice of legislators to men of property rather than to men of intelligence, and so on.

The House of Commons was not reformed in 1831 on any general principle. Large and important communities were found to be without representatives, and representatives were given to them. Boroughs in which the population had died off, and in which only a dozen men or so entitled to vote remained, were found to be returning two members to Parliament, and the privilege of doing so was taken from them. It is now said that by the Reform Bill of 1831 political power was transferred from the upper to the middle classes: but the change was by no means so great as that, and that certainly was not the change intended when the bill was passed. The first reform bill was really a bill for the reform of abuses, and abuses of a very crying description. There are undoubtedly many evils in our political system now which require remedying or removing; but they are chiefly to be found in our general laws, not in the legislative instrument itself, as was the case in 1831. Accordingly, the second reform bill is to be a very scientific affair. It is not pretended that the legislative instrument is rusty, or in any way unfit for work; but it is thought that it will be none the worse for being polished up a little, and for years past a variety of plans for brightening and sharpening it have been brought forward.

Whatever is to be done with the British Parliament, and with the system of voting through which it exists, it is evident that no very sudden change, or at least no sudden change of importance, is contemplated. A Commission, however, has already been intrusted with the duty of collecting facts on which to ground a reform bill of some kind; and Mr. Clay has actually introduced into the House of Commons a bill for the establishment of an educational franchise. Many objections may be made to Mr. Clay's bill; but the objections hitherto made to it have chiefly been that it does not provide for the absolute exclusion from the suffrage of all ignorant and immoral persons. It occurred to Lord Elcho, during the debate to which the introduction of the measure in question gave rise, that if the system proposed by Mr. Clay became law, men of mere intelligence, without either character or property, would be entitled to vote. Thus numbers of persons like Caseley, the housebreaker, would be admitted to the franchise, which, with an educational test alone, might no doubt be the case. But unless a system of examinations for morality, accompanied by certificates of good conduct, prizes for virtue, and so forth, be introduced, we do not see how the good men, or rather the apparently good, are to be told from the bad ones, or apparently bad. What examination, for instance, could have kept Roupell, not merely off the list of voters, but out of the House of Commons?

Besides, if criminality should exclude a man from political rights, ought not habitual, incurable viciousness to act equally as a bar? A banker destined to commit an abuse of trust once in his life, with no intention of defrauding anyone and solely with the view of getting over a seemingly temporary difficulty, is more likely to vote reasonably, and even honestly, than a confirmed drunkard or gambler. Yet drunkenness and a habit of gambling do not unfit a man for the exercise of political rights—not in a legal sense, that is to say; and some of the most vicious men ever known have voted, have sat in Parliament, and have even acted (and with great credit) as Ministers of the Crown.

Mr. Clay's system is at least simple and practicable, whatever its defects may be. We can tell positively, and by a very easy process, whether a man can read, write, and do a little arithmetic. We can not tell whether, under certain circumstances, he would not commit a crime. All we can discover for certain as to his moral character is whether he is already a criminal in the eye of the law. If he has actually been convicted of an act of felony, this conviction has, of course, the effect of disqualifying him as an elector; and it might not be a bad plan, without allowing the possession of a little knowledge to be made a qualification in lieu of property, to make the absence of this knowledge a disqualification, even in the case of a property-holder. Unless, however, the suffrage be very much lowered, such a test as this would practically be of no use. All the young ten-pounders of the present day—the majority of them being shopkeepers, and in the habit of keeping accounts—could certainly pass it. If a system approximating to that of universal suffrage were to be introduced, then some "reading, writing, and 'rithmetic" test would be very useful; and, we fancy, it is only in case of such a check being found necessary that Mr. Clay's project will obtain serious consideration in the House of Commons.

#### FROZEN OUT.

Who can explain the origin of those capricious antipathies which seem to exert so large an influence on mankind? They are frequently altogether mistaken, and the artful swindler who has made them his study can generally contrive to profit by them. The Harold Skimpoles of society—the gay, butterfly, light-hearted children of simplicity—are only double-dyed rogues who have sufficient cunning to see what kind of face and manner is most attractive to their dupes. They are masters of deceit, for they succeed in deceiving people by actually keeping off the mask. A man who tells you that he is sure never to pay you may ask for a loan with confidence; the gay, sparkling, candid, rascal who avows that he is a mere child in money matters and that he is actuated only by selfish motives in telling you so, makes such a dazzling burlesque of truth that you are incapable either of reason or reticence, and you accord to him that sort of trust which once led you to think that columbine never ate anything less ethereal than almond biscuits, or that clown carried his bismuth and broad humour into private life. You would bind down the dull, serious, honest fellow who professed anxiety to meet his bond, and your calm business sense would think it very

creditable of him, and at the same time hope that he was sincere; but not a trouble would ruffle the idiotic serenity of your cogitations when the gay, airy swindler came with mock self-accusation and total recantation of the commercial code. The fly may flutter his gauzy wings and whizz over your choicest fare, and taint it, and take all the savour from it, because he is a fly; but your rough, stern, honest spider—laugh! Be careful of that man. He is blunt enough to be honest; but, then, business is business, and so keep a cover on the meats. This sort of treatment is carried out to the very animal creation. The spider and the fly occupy places in the estimation of ordinary people which should be quite reversed if any sound judgment could influence such triflers. The spider is too often represented as the very emblem of treachery. The honest web which he hangs out in the sun or in the full current of the soft summer air is held to be symbolic of mean arts and pettifogging wiles. The fly, forsooth! who thinks to have it all his own way in creation, and so, without knowing or caring anything about that aerial silver network, except that it looks tempting, makes a dash at it as though it were one of his own particular Tom Tiddler's grounds, is pitied as a martyr to the innocent jubilation of his nature when he finds that for once he has met his match. Why, it is the greatest credit of the spider that he knows the fly and estimates him at his proper value—that is to say, as well-fed game, which, having been sustained at the expense of others whom he has done his best to ruin, comes at last, like any other unscrupulous adventurer, to reap the reward of selfishness, and, without ever having contemplated it, to the support of patient industry. Of course there have been men who, like Robert Bruce, have made pets of spiders, watched them, admired them, and noted, day by day, the exquisite skill and untiring perseverance with which they plied their business; but such people are above the ordinary prejudices of humanity. It must be confessed, too, that the spider himself must bring his actions to the light of day if he would maintain his character for virtue and for a grand utilitarian beauty. Like philanthropists who hoard that they may make charitable bequests, like philosophers who ruminate instead of teaching, and like all people who rather too exclusively mind their own business, the spider who shuts himself into the dark places of men, and will not come into the garden of life, becomes a deformed and bloated creature, with a very good chance of being strangled in the impotent webs with which he has surrounded himself. It is from these members of the spider community that the whole fraternity have been misnamed, not from the honest army of workers whose gossamer dew-gemmed banners float in the early spring morning from the twigs just budding greenly into beauty. The present season has already called forth the first detachment of this great garden army, foes to the hordes of fly-robbers who eat out the cores of the early blooms. But the vanguard of this army has been met by the return of frost—insect Napoleons in a miniature retreat from Moscow, frozen-out gardeners without the power to beg. Look gently on the hardy pioneer of spring, who lies there cold and stark in the folds of that spangled glittering web which, unless the sun release it from the frost, will be a shroud, whereat even the boldest robin will pause before he swoops upon the dead.

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon, though notoriously persistent in all his political views, has wisely given way in a mere domestic question before the loudly-expressed dissatisfaction of the Parisians. Some time since it was announced that the beautiful promenade of the Jardin du Luxembourg was to be destroyed in order to form a new boulevard. This project of M. Haussmann, which called forth loud complaints on all sides, has now been quashed by the Emperor, who has given instructions that the western portion of the promenade shall be left untouched.

The Emperor has commuted to ten years' hard labour in Algeria the sentence of death recorded against the Zouaves who were recently tried in the city of Mexico for mutiny at Martinique.

M. Emile de Girardin, M. Duvernois, and M. Vermorel are about to relinquish their posts on the editorial staff of the journal *La Presse*.

#### PORTUGAL.

The Government has ordered General Prim to leave Portugal. A motion deprecating this decision has been under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies. After an animated debate, the motion was rejected. It is said that General Prim will go to Gibraltar.

#### ROME.

Cardinal Antonelli has addressed a despatch to the Papal representatives abroad, wherein he communicates the views of the Roman Government upon the manner in which the political, military, and financial position of the Holy See will be affected by the execution of the September Convention.

#### AUSTRIA.

The debate in the Hungarian Diet on the address in answer to the Emperor's speech has been in progress for some days, and has been distinguished by much ability and a determination to maintain the national institutions intact.

#### PRUSSIA.

The President of the Ministry of State has addressed a letter to Herr Grabow, President of the Chamber of Deputies, in which he declares that the resolutions of the Chamber relative to the duchy of Lauenburg, the Supreme Court, and the Cologne banquet are unconstitutional, and therefore cannot be accepted by the Government. For these reasons he returns the resolutions to the President of the Chamber of Deputies. It is stated that at a meeting of the advanced Liberal party, held on the 20th, it was provisionally resolved, by forty-nine to forty-seven votes, to request the Government to withdraw the above letter, and to notify that, in case of refusal, the Chamber would not discuss any future bills presented by the Government. It is believed that the Left Centre will probably reject this proposition, and it will then be further modified by the advanced Liberals, who will appoint a committee for drawing up a resolution on the subject.

#### POLAND.

The Lieutenant of the Emperor in Warsaw has promulgated, by order of his Sovereign, a series of provisional decrees respecting the Kingdom of Poland, the principal objects of which are as follows:—The speedy and complete restoration of a normal state of things in Poland, the gradual suppression of the exceptional system and military Government instituted in 1863, and the immediate re-establishment of the civil administrative authorities in the provinces of the kingdom, which will be divided into eight governments, according to the ancient circumscription of voivodships. The military chiefs will be maintained provisionally in their several districts, but they will be henceforth subordinated to the civil authorities.

#### SYRIA.

The Syrian insurrection appears to be rather formidable. The Turks, 4000 in number, marched on the 31st ult. against the Maronites, 1500 in number, headed by Joseph Karam. A battle took place near to Tripoli, and the Turks were utterly routed. Daoud Pacha is, it is said, collecting reinforcements. Intelligence from Constantinople, dated the 14th inst., announces that Dervish Pacha left on that day with troops for Tripoli. He was invested with the rank and powers of Extraordinary Commissioner for the pacification of the Lebanon.

#### THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York reach to the 10th instant. The President, in reply to a delegation of coloured men, who requested that negroes should be allowed the right of suffrage and representation, said he believed that the negroes in the South would not be benefited by those rights, and that the result would be a war of races. To another delegation, who waited on him to express

satisfaction at his policy, he announced his attention to adhere to the doctrines expressed in his annual message, and said that as he was not a candidate for re-election he could afford to do right.

The Senate had passed the Freedmen's Bureau Bill, and the House had passed a bill requiring foreign and non-resident holders of American railway bonds to pay taxes on their dividends.

An alleged confidential agent of the Chilean Government had been arrested and indicted at New York for an infraction of the neutrality laws, by preparing a military expedition against Spain.

The United States Government having disowned the outrage on Bagdad, the principal actors in the affair were being arrested. The whole blame is thrown upon General Crawford. The *New York Tribune* states that the Marquis de Montholon and Mr. Seward have had a final interview on Mexican affairs, at which it was understood the Emperor Napoleon had ordered the withdrawal of all the French troops from Mexico.

The Canadian Commissioners had failed in their attempts to obtain a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty. They could not arrange a basis of agreement with the Committee of Ways and Means.

#### PERU.

Intelligence from Panama to the 1st inst. announces that Peru had formed an offensive and defensive alliance with Chili, and declared war against Spain. Three Peruvian frigates and two corvettes had left to join the Chilean fleet, with orders to immediately commence hostilities. The Spaniards at Lima had been ordered not to leave the country, and to have their names registered for surveillance. The Peruvian Government had taken other precautions to have reprisals in hand in case the Spaniards take possession of any part of the coast or inflict other damage. The Spanish fleet had thoroughly blockaded Valparaiso, and an attack on the city was expected. It was hoped at Lima that the other South American Republics would join the alliance formed between Peru and Chili.

#### INDIA.

The Bhootas, it appears, have not yet returned the Armstrong guns which were left behind at Dewangiri, and it is stated, in the last news from India, that our troops will march against Penlow in consequence.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

Intelligence from New Zealand announces that General Chute had attacked and captured a large rebel pah. The war was virtually over, and the troops were leaving for England.

#### THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

THE annual statement setting forth the estimated net cost of the Naval services for the financial year 1866-7, commencing on April 1 next, was issued on Monday. The total sum, before deduction of any prospective extra receipts and repayments, is stated at £2,038,153, being less by £4071 than the last vote for 1865-6, and by £281,864 4s. 2d. than the expenditure on like account during 1864-5. In this last-named year, from the actual amount expended—viz., £1,070,017 4s. 2d.—an abatement of £186,388 15s. resulted for extra receipts and repayments. For the current year 1865-6 up to the 31st of December last £118,193 7s. 8d. had accrued from this source, and for the remaining quarter up to March 31 next it is estimated that an additional sum of £39,397 12s. 3d. will be received, making the entire amount £157,591 to be deducted from the last vote of £1,039,224. For the next financial year it is calculated that the vote to be asked for, of £1,038,153, will be reduced by an estimated amount of extra receipts and repayments of £149,163, to a net expenditure of £1,038,990. The net amount for the current year, 1865-6, will almost certainly be £1,024,633. Thus the slight increase which appears in the estimated net amount for this year results from the lower computation of the probable abatement, not from the actual vote to be asked for, which is £4071 less than that taken for 1865-6.

The principal details of variation between the votes to be taken for the coming year and those granted by Parliament for 1865-6 are as follow:—There is a decrease of £32,302 in the wages to seamen and marines, which, however, is more apparent than real, since £69,503 is transferred to swell another vote to which it properly pertains; the real reduction under this head is, therefore, £12,899, obtained by a slight reduction of 1350 men in the fleet and coastguard service. The next vote—for victuals and clothing—shows a consequent reduction in amount of £90,506; but, in like manner, the actual abatement is £87,694, the sum transferred to augment other votes being £2812. The coastguard service, coast volunteers, and naval reserve are set down for a saving of £10,276; and a reduction of £6084 is estimated on the scientific branch. There is a diminution of £9143 in the sum set apart for half-pay, reserved and retired pay, &c. The most considerable saving, however, is proposed to be effected in the departments of the Storekeeper-General and the Controller of the Navy; for the first of these the vote this year will be £131,071 less than that for last, and for the latter £246,700 less. Amongst those items upon which an increase appears in the present Estimates are the five following—viz., dockyards, &c., £64,776; victualling yards and transport establishments, £912; medical establishments, £2021; marine division, £1417; and martial law and law charges, £2742. The aggregate amount of the votes taken under these heads is really just the same as last year—viz., £1,461,129, the increase being in each instance only an apparent one consequent upon the readjustment, or rather transference, of certain charges as pointed out above. The remaining heads for which any noticeable increase of provision will be asked are new works, buildings, &c., £364,880; medicines and medical stores, £10,864; and a trifling sum for miscellaneous services.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.—Last week the Emperor of the French visited several of the lowest and most turbulent quarters of Paris to decide upon certain improvements and embellishments which have been suggested by M. Haussmann. He also drove slowly round the Luxembourg Gardens, which have recently given rise to such vehement discussions and demonstrations. His visit was made in a low phaeton, driven by himself. His escort consisted of a friend and a couple of grooms. In Louis Philippe's time the Court newsman used only to be too happy if he could conclude his description of a Royal progress through Paris with the congratulatory observation—"Nous remarquons avec plaisir que sa Majesté n'a pas été assassinée." The day had not then arrived when the ruler of France could lounge about the slums of his capital as securely as any private individual, or as Louis Napoleon does now. It is impossible for the worst enemies of the existing dynasty to deny that its chief is either very popular or very courageous.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

NATIONAL GALLERY.—The report on the National Gallery for the year 1865 is signed by Mr. Wornum, the keeper and secretary, the director who would in due course have signed it being no more. It states that in Sir C. Eastlake's last annual journey to the Continent with the view of acquiring further examples for the national collection, in the autumn of last year, the was purchased, with the concurrence of the trustees and the sanction of the Treasury, an altar-piece by Vittore Carpaccio, representing a Doge of the Morenigo family kneeling before the Virgin and Child enthroned, and to whom he is being presented by John the Baptist; on the right hand of the Virgin is St. Christopher, with his staff, supporting the infant Christ. The figures are nearly life-size. The price was £3400. But the chief purchase of the year was Raphael's "Virgin and Child and St. John," formerly known as the Adorantini Raphael, now called the "Garvagh Raphael," purchased from the Garvagh family for £9000. "A Dead Warrior," ascribed to Velasquez; Velasquez's portrait of Philip IV. of Spain, a landscape by Ruysdael, and some other purchases were also added to the collection in 1865; and the year witnessed the arrival at South Kensington of Mr. Jacob Bell's bequests, the "Horse Fair" and the "Derby Day." Mr. Watson presented to the gallery the portrait of Sir D. Brewster, by the donor's brother, Sir J. W. Gordon. The work of repairing and varnishing damaged pictures and protecting with glass went on successfully during the year, and five early German pictures, lent to the Department of Science and Art, having become greatly blistered, were safely transferred from wood to canvas and repaired. The number of visitors to the National Gallery in the year was 694,354, at Trafalgar-square, which is shown to the public four days in the week; and 692,900 at South Kensington, which is open six days in the week and three evenings. In 1864 the numbers were 713,300 and 653,069. More than £16,000 was expended last year in purchases, above half the amount being derived from savings from former grants. It appears that Sir C. Eastlake's last purchase was a picture of the "Virgin and Child," ascribed to Giovanni Santi, purchased for £120, in November last, from Signor Michaelangelo Gualandri, of Bologna; it is painted in tempera on wood.

MEMORARY EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—Ten per cent of the men who married in Scotland and 20 per cent of the women had to sign the marriage register by making their mark, in the year 1862, for which detailed returns have just been issued. In England, in the same year, 23.7 per cent of the men who married and 33.2 of the women were obliged to sign by mark; but England is steadily reducing its disadvantage, and diminishing very much faster than Scotland the proportion of population signing by mark. To a great extent it is the Irish element in Scotland which causes her proportion of persons unable to write their names to be even so high as it is. In those towns and counties where the number of the Irish is great the proportion of men and women signing by mark is great. Scotland was able to show, in 1862, one county (Kinross), in which, indeed, there were only thirty-two marriages, but in every instance both parties wrote their names on the register; and in another county (Peebles), in which there were sixty marriages, every one of the sixty men and all but one of the sixty women wrote their names.



## THE SUPPER TO THE HOMELESS BOYS OF LONDON.

As stated in our last Number, a novel and highly-interesting spectacle, growing out of the recent disclosures respecting the treatment of the casual poor, was witnessed on the evening of the 14th inst., at the Refuge for Homeless and Destitute Children, Parker-street, Drury-lane. In consequence of the facts brought to light by the late visitor to the casual ward of Lambeth Workhouse an effort has been commenced with a view to rescue the boys who are accustomed to sleep in the casual wards of our workhouses from the contaminating influences of the men who frequent those places; and to the committee managing the above refuge we owe the philanthropic demonstration under consideration. As a means of collecting these miserable waifs and strays of society into a focus, it was determined to issue a notice to the officials of the casual wards of the various metropolitan workhouses, stating the wish of the committee to give "a supper of bread, meat, and pudding" to those homeless boys, inmates of the casual wards, who might wish to come, it being the desire of the gentlemen interested in the fate of this helpless class to attempt the organisation of some plan by which they might be rescued from crime or destitution. The Earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. Hanbury, M.P., and several ladies and gentlemen interested in the refugees for the homeless and the destitute, gave their adhesion to the movement. It was expected that about 400 boys would have presented themselves in response to the invitation; but although it was admitted at the meeting that the workhouse officials at the various workhouses had, with one exception, readily promised to acquaint the boys with the invitation, there seems to have been a feeling on the part of many of these young "casuals" that it might be intended to lay a trap for them, and that it would be prudent to stay away. About 170 lads actually made their appearance, in addition to the one hundred boys who are the regular inmates of the refuge in Parker-street.

A good many friends of the movement were present to witness the dispatch of this public supper. The lads belonging to the refuge sat on one side of the room, and the specially invited on the other. The spectacle presented by the latter section was very affecting. Many of the boys were without shoes or stockings, most of them in rags and tatters. Many of them had that air of cunning and precocity which results from too early an acquaintance with misery and vice. Here and there a fine head and intellectual countenance stood out sharply from the general mass. Whatever might be the daily miseries of these poor young creatures, they were dispelled for the time by the good cheer provided. The repast was ample, almost to a fault. Each had placed before him, in succession, half a pound of cold beef, with plenty of bread, one pound of excellent plum-pudding, and a pint of coffee. When the plum-pudding came the decorum of the lads quite gave way, and they set up a hearty cheer.

After the supper the lads and visitors repaired to another room, which is the workshop of the Parker-street Refuge, and the boys were addressed in turn by Mr. Williams (the secretary to the refuge), the Earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. Hanbury, M.P., and others. The boys were at once taken into the confidence of their well-wishers, and the spontaneous readiness of their various responses to the interrogatories of the speakers was remarkable. Mr. Williams, after stating some statistics with respect to the operations of the Parker-street Refuge, detailed the causes which had led to the present gathering, adding, that it had struck himself and friends that some means might be devised for rescuing these boys from the career of crime and misery which awaited them, and, by the institution of some scheme of employment, prevent them from becoming tramps and vagrants and a pest to society. He had no definite plan to propose; but it was clear that most of the assembled lads only wanted some friendly hand and a fair start in life. The Earl of Shaftesbury next addressed the boys, in a series of direct questions, having first enjoined a truthful and fearless response to his interrogatories. The answers came promptly and decisively, and constituted a most interesting feature in the proceedings. The first poser was, "Let all those boys who have ever been in prison hold up their hands." About twenty or thirty hands were held up. Then, "Let those who have been in prison twice hold up their hands." About ten were held up. "How many in prison three times?" Five hands were upraised. "Is it the case that the greater part of you boys are running about town all day, and sleeping where you can at night?" A general response was made to this query. "How do you get your livelihood?" Some boys called out, "Holding horses," "Begging," "Cleaning boots." "Would you like to get out of your present line of life and into one of honest industry?" A general and enthusiastic "Yes!" was the reply. "Supposing that there were in the Thames a big ship, large enough to contain a thousand boys, would you like to be placed on board to be taught trades, or trained for the Navy and merchant service?" A forest of upraised hands settled these alternatives in the affirmative. "Do you think that another 200 boys out of the streets would say the same?" Answer, "We do." Proceeding with words of encouragement to the assembled boys, telling them that they had a great duty to perform in this life, and that although they might be poor God held them in esteem, that although some people might be rich and others poor all classes were dependent on each other, the noble Earl said that all classes, both rich and poor, must work together, to make good men and good subjects of Queen Victoria. The noble Earl concluded by exhorting the boys to "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," a sentiment which was received with cheers by the lads.

The boys were afterwards addressed to the same purpose by Mr. Hanbury and other visitors, and the strange assemblage broke up. Every lad on leaving the meeting had fourpence given to him to procure a lodging for that night.

Since the above-mentioned meeting took place, the secretary of the refuge has addressed a letter to the public journals, in which he says:—

Twenty-four of the boys have been received into the refuge, and more will be admitted this week; and, if the public will only supply the money for supporting the boys, the utmost will be done to save all the lads who wish to escape from the miserable life now before them.

That the public may see the meeting of Wednesday is intended to have a practical result, I shall be glad if you will allow me to mention that two projects are under consideration, with a view of making further provision for meeting the necessities of these homeless boys. The first is to ascertain if the Lords of the Admiralty will give one of the useless ships of war now lying in her Majesty's dockyards to be fitted up as a training-ship for those boys who wish and are able to follow a seafaring life. The second project is to obtain, by hire or gift, an old-fashioned house, with about fifty acres of land, a few miles from London, where those boys not fitted for a sea life can be trained to agricultural pursuits, so as to supply the labour market at home or to qualify themselves for colonial life. Both these projects are most important. They will, of course, require considerable funds to start them; but, when once established, I believe they will always have warm supporters. One gentleman has promised £100 to help to start the country home.

It rests, therefore, with the public to determine what further shall be done for the homeless boys of London. Only let sufficient funds be raised, and it will at once be seen that great practical good has resulted from the meeting of Wednesday last.

Many contributions have already been received and promised. Left-off clothes would be of great service just now.

## SCENE FROM "EAST LYNNE" AT THE SURREY THEATRE.

SOME notice of Mr. Oxenford's dramatised version of "East Lynne," now running at the Surrey Theatre, appeared in our "Theatrical Lounger" a week or two ago. We now publish an engraving of the scene where the unhappy Lady Isabel reveals herself to her injured husband at the bedside of their dying child. Perhaps we may as well again state the "course of the action" of the piece, which is as follows:—

The plot is somewhat far-fetched and exaggerated, although described in choice and harmonious language. The first act presents us with a beautifully-executed scene, being the drawing-room and conservatory of East Lynne, the residence of Archibald Carlyle, a wealthy solicitor and the new proprietor of East Lynne, who marries the fair daughter of the previous owner, the Earl of Mount Severn,

deceased. Lady Isabel Carlyle, the lady in question, full of love and jealousy, gives way to the most groundless suspicions of her husband's fidelity, believing that she is supplanted in his affections by Barbara Hare, daughter of Justice Hare (a county J.P.). Captain F. Levison (afterwards Sir Francis Levison), a roué and a scoundrel, by the most wily and Iago-like machinations, confirms those suspicions in the mind of Lady Isabel to such an extent as to induce her in the madness of her jealousy to fly from her home, her husband, and her two children, and to become his mistress. Stung with remorse upon his discovered villany and his broken promises, she abandons his protection and is peculiarly succoured in her miserable and desolate situation by an uncle, who, notwithstanding her guilt and shame, endeavours to alleviate her wants and soothe her broken spirit. In the mean time her husband obtains a divorce, and, on receiving the false information that Lady Isabel had been killed by a railway accident, marries Barbara Hare. His first unhappy wife, however, hearing that her eldest child is dying of consumption, assumes the name of Mme. Vine, and, having disguised her person and voice, succeeds in obtaining the situation of governess in the family of her husband, and thus obtains the charge of her own children. Whilst acting in this capacity her feelings frequently betray her. At length, unable to bear the death-scene of her darling child, she tears off her disguise and proclaims herself the guilty but repentant wife of the proprietor of East Lynne. Her feeble frame sinking under the fearful struggles of her position at length gives way altogether, and she dies in her injured husband's arms at the moment of his forgiveness. There is an episode in the story which contributes considerably to the complexity of the plot. Sir F. Levison, whilst pursuing his candidature for the representation of East Lynne in Parliament in opposition to Archibald Carlyle, is suddenly arrested by the police on a charge of murder, and is ultimately convicted of the same. By this circumstance the innocence of Richard Hare, son of Justice Hare and brother of Barbara, the second wife of Carlyle, who was unjustly charged with the offence, is triumphantly vindicated.

## THE FRENCH COLONY ON THE GABOON.

WE have already published some account of the settlement which our neighbours have established on the Gaboon, and we are this week able to furnish some further illustrations of the singular people who are just now attracting so much attention from European travellers and explorers.

Until 1839 the whole territory had been regarded only as a sort of *terra incognita*—a burning fiery furnace of swamp, and underwood, and plain, where the Portuguese alone had been able to make a scanty settlement; but now, in spite of all the terrible difficulties of climate and situation, the people have been brought under the influence of European manners, and a series of definite colonies have been secured along the Gaboon. The Portuguese first endeavoured to explore the country in the expectation of discovering gold, and took up their position on the fine hills of Coniquet Island, situated at the end of the roads and at the mouth of an immense body of water known by the name of Como. This position protected the little colony from being surprised from the mainland by the inhabitants, who were then sunk in complete savagery; but the expectations of the Portuguese not being realised as to the object of their search, they rejoined their countrymen at Cape Coast, after having given their name to the Crystal Mountains, a vast chain, from which the river takes its course. No vestiges of this original establishment now remain except two rusty canyons, entirely overgrown by the abundant vegetation of the country.

After this effort the Gaboon remained long unvisited, except by occasional vessels which went there to obtain ivory and slaves for the American colonies; but the obvious advantages of the place as a station for re-creating the squadrons, and as a way to open up the commerce of the interior, could not long escape the attention of maritime nations. In February, 1839, the vessel *La Malouine* anchored in the river, and its commandant, M. Edward Bouët, shortly afterwards signed a treaty with King Denis which gave to France the right of forming a settlement on the territory to the left bank of the stream of which he was King. This was the first treaty, but it was subsequently followed by others which obtained from the chiefs of the other tribes similar rights on all the country bordering the Gaboon and its affluents.

The population of the Gaboon is composed of four distinct races; those which inhabit the banks of the outer basin are the Pongos, and it is these who are most familiar with the white population and who serve as magistrates with other tribes in their commercial relations; a duty to which they are admirably adapted by the facility with which they acquire languages—many of them speaking French, English, and Spanish with remarkable fluency. They are reduced to a small remnant of a tribe, their wars with their neighbours having left them only a few villages both on the right and the left banks of the river; the latter under the Chiefs Denis, Little Denis, Georges, and François, in Coniquet Island. With their power the Pongos have also lost their national characteristics; and among them it is very unusual to see a pure black, while both their facial and phrenological developments present extraordinary variety. Slavery exists in the Gaboon, but its régime is very different from that of Senegal. In the north of Africa the warriors hold the weaker and more timid people in servitude; while here it is the strong who are the slaves of the weak, a fact which may be partially explained by the fact that indirect means are employed to secure such a state of things, and that humane, and to a certain extent just, laws have been instituted with regard to the relations between masters and bondmen. In their domestic arrangements, though polygamy is practised, the principal wife is the one with whom the contract of marriage is made, and it is she who has the sole authority in the household. The other wives are, in fact, to a certain extent merely a retinue, who help to improve the circumstances of the husband. The married women, and especially the principal wives, are distinguished by a head-dress consisting of a sort of high helmet, the wearing of which is compulsory. The Pongo women, except in this respect, are very little more burdened with drapery than the men, their attire consisting mostly of a couple of long pieces of drapery fastened round the hips and falling to the feet. On their necks they frequently wear several necklaces of peach and other stones. They also decorate themselves with enormous earrings, principally of European manufacture, and their ancles and toes as well as their fingers are adorned with big copper rings. Although their limbs are often well formed and graceful, their walk is exceedingly inelegant, and their voices are rough and harsh from the immoderate use of ardent spirits. A more idle or dissipated race than these Pongos could scarcely be discovered, and yet they are remarkably intelligent, and their manners are not without a certain grace. Whenever you enter a Pongo's hut, he is either asleep or smoking his pipe; he may rise to do honour to his guest; but, if he be a chief, he will not even take that trouble, but will hold out one hand lazily, the other being occupied in nursing one of his feet. A few pipes of tobacco, however, will generally ensure his good-will, and for a bottle of brandy he would part with half his family. The women do the work of the house, and generally superintend or join in the work of the slaves in the plantation. If the master has occasion to go to a neighbouring village, one of the women accompanies him to carry his parcels; and in carrying out his lazy theories he regards all work as worthy only of whites and women. The example of the European settlers, however, is certainly making some gradual alterations in the native character. What may be called the sanctuary of the native religion are the islands of Lake Jonanga, celebrated in the country for its great expanse, its picturesque beauty, and its supernatural reputation.

Of the group of islands that of Aroumbé is alone inhabited, and this place may be said to be the head-quarters of fetishism, the king himself being the high priest; and the services of the superstition being carried on by a number of inferior medicine men who have been regularly trained for their rites from early boyhood.

On the occasion of the visit of the first French embassy, the negro fetish king came out to meet the party in a gorgeous

uniform, consisting of an old corporal's tunic with short tails, ornamented with yellow worsted lace, supplemented by a pair of ragged cotton drawers and a battered straw hat. This, however, was his state costume, and was only assumed to do honour to his visitors, and to impress them with the dignity of his religious office, by which he deprecated the adverse influence of the geni of the silent islands and the deities of the negro mythology.

In accordance with the treaty with England for the suppression of the slave trade, a French squadron of small vessels was kept constantly on the alert at Goree; and, as these ships were necessarily of small tonnage and their provisions were soon exhausted, it was often extremely difficult for them to make their cruise along the coast, crawling before the light winds in that stifling climate. It was therefore most desirable that they should be able to come to an anchorage in the Gaboon, at some station where they might re-victual. The first place established for this purpose did not long continue in use, in consequence of the mortality amongst the Europeans stationed there. In 1842 a treaty was made with Kings Louis and Quaben for the acquisition of territory and the right to establish a dépôt on the right bank, and a blockhouse was erected, surrounded by temporary fortifications. But the Gaboon being in possession of several tribes with adverse interests, and the treaty being only ratified by the Pongos, the Governor of Senegal, in order to prevent any other European settlement from being established, negotiated a general treaty with all the principal chiefs of both banks of the river, with sovereignty over all the bays, islands, creeks, and other territory surrounding them. In 1845 funds were voted by the Legislature for making the Gaboon the central point for provisioning and refitting the vessels of the African squadron. To the place chosen in 1843 was added another, which is still the principal station, situated at about twelve miles from the coast. This establishment comprehends two stone buildings, each surmounted by a stage facing the sea, and serving, one for the quarters of the commandant and the officers of the station, the other for the hospital and barracks for the troops of the garrison. Several wooden huts, used for workshops and stores; a powder-magazine; a battery; two garden-like plantations, where fruit and vegetables are grown; a park and a range of stables, complete the station of the Government authorities on the Gaboon. Round the establishments are erected factories belonging to proprietors at Marseilles, the houses of the sisters of the community of Castres, and the cottages of the people forming the village of Libreville. The Apostolic French Mission, where the Archbishop resides, is only a short distance off; and still further, in the little village of Glass, the Americans have also established a mission-house.

The various tribes differ but little from the Pongos in essential particulars, and amongst all the natives fetishism is the most powerful influence of their lives. To see their temples is to gain a tolerably clear idea of the superstition of this degrading religion. Amongst the Gabonese these buildings are simple huts, generally built near the dwelling of the chief, into which the initiated alone may enter, and they only at certain periods—at the first cockcrow in the morning, and after having completely covered their bodies with a dress ornamented with various colours. Outside these huts are suspended a profusion of worthless objects, such as old broken pieces of glass, old rusty swords, bells, broken drums, and such articles as might be seen in a European house during the time of removing and before the final clearance. These things are sacred, and no profane hand may touch them. These, in fact, are "fetish." But beside them there are personal and particular "fetishes" belonging to each individual; for instance, to some of the natives the flesh of certain animals is forbidden. Thus François, the King of the Coniquet Island, an intelligent fellow enough, never eats fowls or eggs, because a "fetisher" has assured him that the fowl and all that it produces will cause his death if he tastes it. Beneath all this poor frippery there is, of course, the belief in the intervention of a supernatural power; but it is a power for evil—in fact, the Devil, who is, they think, the cause of all evil, and also of sickness. The good principle is represented by the fetisher, who alone has the power to overcome the evil spirit. The fetisher is generally an old man, who is supposed to be initiated into certain mysteries, which confer upon him the ability either to produce or to counteract sickness. A sort of conjuration, called the "palaver," always precedes his efforts, and this ceremony prepares the natives by inspiring them with awe for the subsequent operations of the priest. But the fetisher has recourse to more direct and ordinary means of proceeding, and a good deal of his influence depends upon his knowledge of the medicinal virtues of the native plants and the use of poisons, either of which he can employ with such effect that he may be either the most useful ally or the most dangerous enemy to the Gabonese, amongst whom he, of course, inspires more fear than true respect. When a patient dies under the hands of a fetisher, he of course does not acknowledge his failure, but frequently accuses one of the tribe or some unhappy slave of the dead person, the idea of poison being always the first suspicion of the friends of the deceased. Of course, such a charge from the fetisher requires very little investigation, and native justice on the Gaboon is untrammelled by many forms previous to the execution of the sentence. The accused is, in fact, submitted to a sort of supernatural judgment. He is compelled to drink an infusion of a plant called *oyia*, which has peculiar medicinal properties varying according to the constitution of the patient. If the effect produced corresponds with the prediction of the fetisher, the accused is pronounced guilty, and he submits to the punishment of his crime. If these provisions are not verified, however, he is still subject to bastinadoing, mutilation, and compulsory fasting until he confesses his guilt. The whole village then constitutes itself a supreme court to decide upon the nature and duration of his punishment. The punishment of the guilty is always death, either by decapitation, hanging, or drowning; and these punishments, which are inflicted in public to the sound of the everlasting tom-tom, are the occasion for a regular holiday to the whole village.

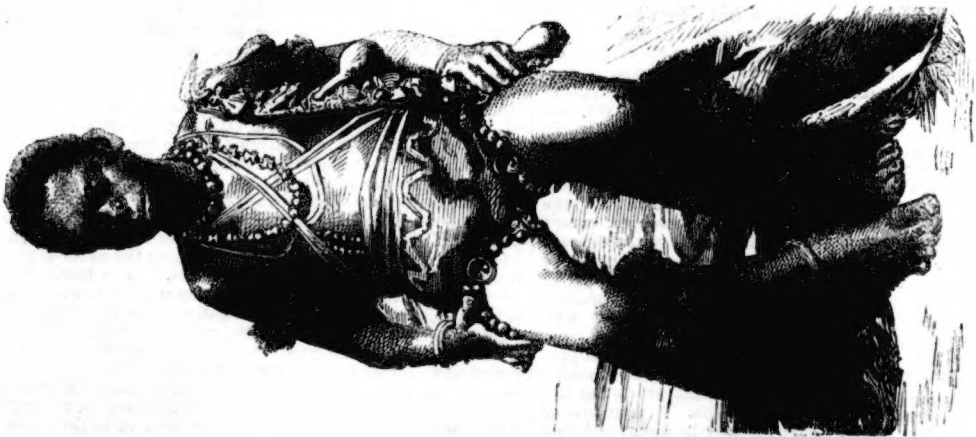
To his professions of priest and doctor the fetisher adds the lucrative business of a merchant, dealing in amulets, charms, and fetish ornaments. These consist of pieces of wood or bone painted and carved, the skins of some animal, boxes containing the ashes of plants, and sometimes even calcined human bones. The fetish women are educated into the business, and commence quite young by being, as it is supposed, in direct communication with the fiend for several weeks, during which she is grotesquely painted and decked out in a dress composed of the most absurd scraps of finery. During this period she appears to be in a sort of ecstasy, and holds no communication with ordinary people, for she has conversations with the dead, by whom she is called to supernatural conferences, recounts events which occurred in her early infancy, and is subject to a sort of second-sight. She then falls into violent convulsions, which are supposed to denote possession, and then her companions are called; the tom-toms strike up their infernal tune; and she begins to dance and sing a wild and frenzied measure, only interrupted by her occasional retirement to rest in the hut which has been devoted to her. After this maniacal demonstration she is initiated by ceremonies, which no outsider is allowed to witness, and is thenceforth a fetisher.

When a Gabonese dies the body is exposed for two or three days in the hut, where it lies in state. Nearly all the village, with the friends and relations of the deceased, visit the corpse, and, in a similar manner to that of the old Irish wake, bewail his death and reproach him for abandoning his family. During this time, if he be a chief, cannons are fired, but for an ordinary person only muskets are discharged. On the day, or rather night of the funeral, for the ceremony always takes place after dark, similar forms are gone through, and the body is conveyed to the cemetery in a narrow box, which is consigned to the grave along with all the personal effects of the deceased, including kitchen utensils, articles of the toilet, vases, &c. The wives and daughters of the defunct cut off their hair, and for some time wear no ornaments. Previous to the French occupation it was customary, on the death of a Pongo of high rank, to sacrifice several slaves upon his grave, in order to furnish him with attendants in the other world; but at the present time either this custom is abandoned, or is carried on so secretly that it is never reported to the authorities.





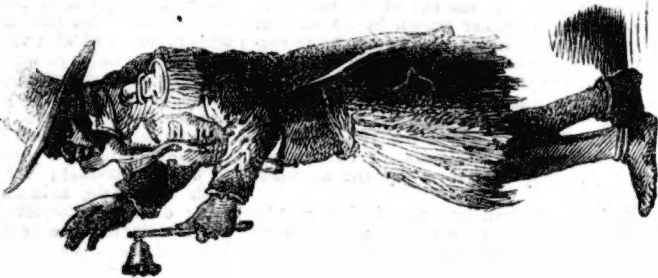
KING GEORGE.



YOUNG FETISHER, OF THE GALLOIS TRIBE.



KING LOUIS.  
PEOPLE OF THE GABOON COUNTRY, AFRICA.



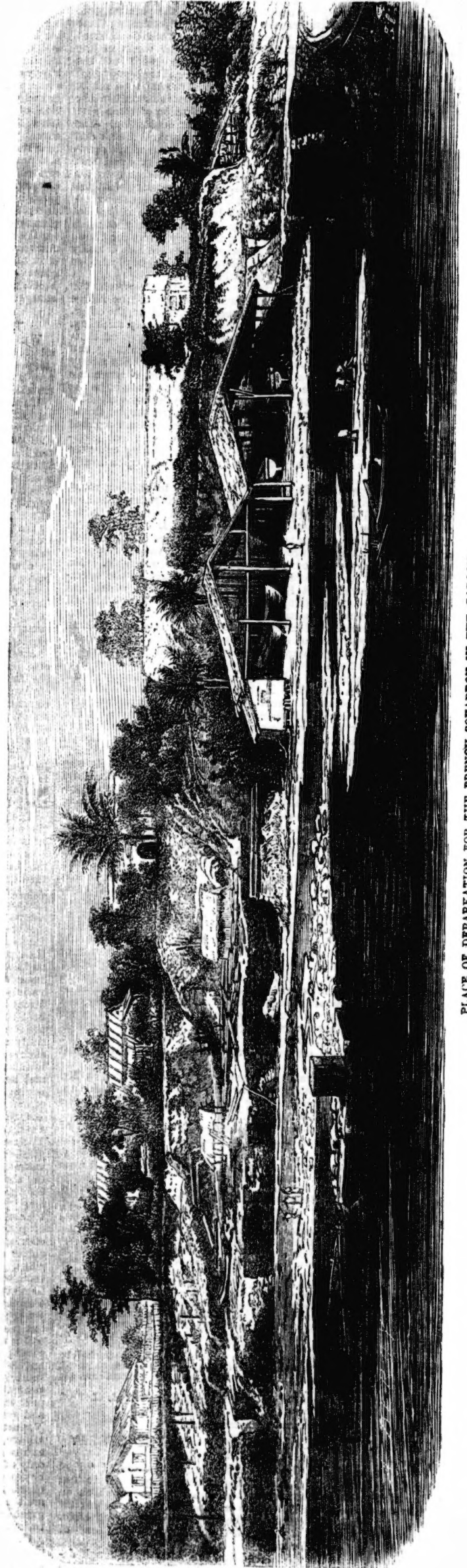
THE KING OF THE SACRED ISLANDS  
EXORCISING EVIL SPIRITS.



FRANCOIS, KING OF CONQUEST.

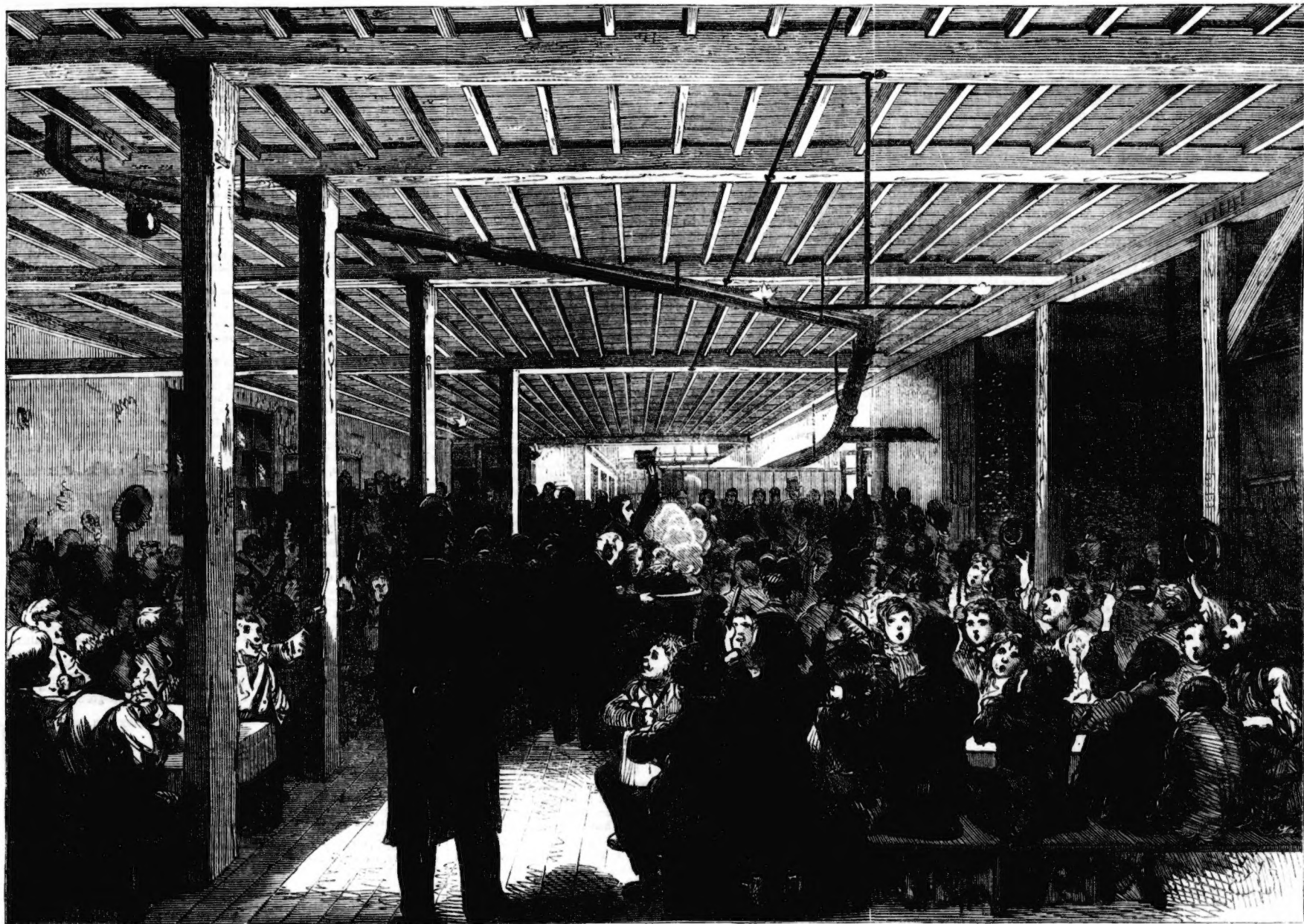


THE KING OF CLASS.



PLACE OF DEBARCATION FOR THE FRENCH SQUADRON IN THE GABOON.





SUPPER TO HOMELESS BOYS IN THE REFUGE, PARKER-STREET, DRURY-LANE.



SCENE FROM "EAST LYNNE," AT THE NEW SURREY THEATRE.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 270.

## THE GIANT AND THE PIGMIES.

MR. JOHN STUART MILL has spoken in the House four times, and "is a failure." This big giant, which we were all so afraid of, is, after all, no giant at all, but a mere pigmy. This is the decision; but, then, please to remember, readers, that it was the pigmies of the House that delivered the verdict, and pigmies—at least, intellectual pigmies—are no fit judges of a giant. They cannot with their pigmy eyes take in his vast proportions, any more than a fly settling on the cornice of a cathedral can comprehend its magnitude. Speaking in fable, one can imagine a couple of bluebottles settling upon a string-course of Westminster Abbey, and thus discoursing:—"Well, brother, what do you think of this famous abbey, so much thought of by mortals?" "A decided failure, I should say," and straightway the verdict would be made known through all Flydom. And so we may imagine Squirt saying to Squilibet, as they sipped their wine at Lucas's, or smoked their havannah below:—"Did you hear this great Mill, about whom there has been so much talk?" "Yes." "What did you think of him?" "Well, I should say he is a failure. I could see nothing in him." "Nor I. By-the-way, what has he done that so much noise was made about him?" "Oh! written some books." "Ah! these writing fellows never show well in the House." Then Mr. Mill is not a failure? we think we hear some reader say; to whom we answer, No; Mr. John Stuart Mill has not failed, nor can he fail. To ascertain whether a man is a failure, we must ascertain what he aims at. Mr. Mill never thought to startle and dazzle the House by his oratory, as Disraeli did when he first rose to speak. Mr. Mill has no oratorical gifts, and he knows it. Nor can he be called a rhetorician. He is a close reasoner, and addresses himself directly to our reasoning powers; and though he has great command of language, as all his hearers know, he never condescends to deck out his arguments in rhetorical finery to catch applause. His object is to convey his thoughts directly to the hearer's mind, and to do this he uses the clearest medium—not coloured glass, but the best polished plate, because through that objects may be best seen. Mr. Mill did not succeed as an orator; but then he did not attempt oratory. He did not excite a furore of cheering; but then he neither expected nor wished for applause. Mr. Mill, we should say, cares very little for applause. Rapturous cheering, such as that which Mr. Horsman and Mr. Lowe can evoke, would, we venture to think, be an offence to Mr. Mill. He would, perhaps, say, with the old Roman orator, "What foolish thing have I said, that these people applaud?" And, indeed, we ourselves have, after long experience, come to think that applause in the House of Commons is often uproarious in proportion to the foolishness of the sentiment which calls it forth. Deep attention, broken only by significant murmurs, is, to our mind, far more complimentary to a speaker than fierce and uproarious applause. What Mr. Mill intended to do was to reason calmly with his opponents, and this he succeeded in doing. True, his first speech was scarcely in any way a success, for few could hear it. Mr. Mill was in an entirely new position, and what wonder if he was nervous? Moreover, not having tested the acoustic properties of the House, he could not tell what exertion was necessary to make himself heard; and here we may remark that, so close is Mr. Mill's reasoning and so concise his sentences, that if you cannot hear all that he says you might as well hear nothing. There are speakers in the House out of whose speeches every third word might be taken, and the speeches would be all the better for the operation; but Mr. Mill uses no superfluous words—every word is necessary to make his meaning clear, and to this special end is chosen. Mr. Mill's subsequent speeches were heard in all parts of the House and commanded silent attention. He has not a powerful voice, but then it is highly pitched and very clear; and this class of voice goes much further than one of lower tone—as the ear-piercing fife is heard at a greater distance than the blatant trombone. The giant, then, is not a failure; no, except in the eyes of the pigmies.

## TRAMPLING OUT.—SUSPENSION OF THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT IN IRELAND.

On Friday evening week Sir George Grey startled a crowded House by suddenly, without premonitory whisper having gone before, giving notice that on the following day he should bring in a bill to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland. Suspend the Habeas Corpus Act! What has happened, then? Has a rebellion broken out in the Sister Isle? These were the questions bandied about during the evening, but no definite answer to them could be got for a time. At last, however, the truth oozed out somehow, as Sir George Grey gave it us on the following day. There was no actual breaking out of insurrection, but the seeds of rebellion had been so thickly strewn by certain American-Irish Fenians, and were germinating so rapidly, that the ordinary implements were insufficient to root them up, and resort must be had to the extraordinary. The Conservative gentlemen cheered the announcement made by the Home Secretary; but surely it was hardly a notice to be cheered. Suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, and thus throwing down the great Constitutional protection of life and liberty, may be a right thing to do; but it is a sad necessity. But Conservatives, above all things, like vigorous action. Remedial measures to prevent the necessity for vigorous action find not so much favour with them; but the announcement of some vigorous action to put down an evil, however it may have arisen, is always pleasant to the Conservative taste. It has an antique flavour about it smacking of old Tory times, when the country was ruled, not by these gabbling Parliaments, but by a strong ruler with armed men at his back, ever ready to "trample out" anything like dissatisfaction as it arose.

## SIR GEORGE GREY PROPOSES HIS BILL.

On Saturday, then, the House met at twelve o'clock, and such a crowd of members has never been seen on a Saturday in the memory of the oldest man present. Long before the time of meeting the members began to pour in, and when the Speaker marched up to the table there were at least 300 present to bow to him as he passed and join in the preliminary prayers. You see, reader, that unless a member be present at prayers he cannot secure a seat, and hence—without being uncharitable—we may account for this anxiety, when anything important is coming on, to be present to pray. Every member present at prayers can affix a card with his name thereon in a small brass rack on the back of the bench, and hold his seat till the House rises. But if he come in after prayers he can legally hold no seat. He can, of course, sit down in a vacant place if there be one, but if he leave it some one else may snap it up. Sir George Grey, our indefatigable Home Secretary, was present, as he always is, punctually to his time; and as soon as the private business was over, he rose and commenced the onerous task of justifying the strong measure which he had to submit to the House. Sir George looked, we thought, unusually pale and anxious; and no wonder, for his responsibilities were great; and, moreover, of late he must, what with this Fenian conspiracy and the dreadful cattle plague, have had more anxiety pressing upon his mind and more arduous labour to get through than any other man—perhaps than any three—in her Majesty's dominions. He did his work, though, uncommonly well. You would not have imagined that only the night before the Right Honourable Baronet was so thoroughly done up that he had to go home early, leaving the Cattle Plague Bill in the hands of his Under-Secretary; for, though he was pale and anxious, there was no lack of energy, and he spoke, we really think, better than we ever heard him speak before. Generally, he is far too rapid in his delivery to be a forcible speaker. On this occasion he slackened his pace, spoke more deliberately, and, by consequence, with much greater effect. It was, no doubt, the responsibility of his position, weighing him down, that compelled him to speak so calmly and deliberately as he did. He was about to ask the House to give him powers which are never given to the Minister of the Crown except in times of imminent peril. He was to do an historic thing, one which must take its place in the pages of the future historian of our country; and he had to make a speech which would be read not only by millions of our countrymen here, and wherever the English language is spoken, but by all the statesmen of Europe, and we may say of the world.

But, anxious as he evidently was, he was equal to the occasion; and when he sat down this was recognised by rounds of applause from all sides of the House; and all the members, even the Irishmen who opposed the measure, confessed that the Home Secretary had performed his part in this important drama with admirable propriety and skill.

## DISRAELI ASSENTS.

After Sir George Grey had finished, Mr. Disraeli rose, of course. He is leader of her Majesty's Opposition; her Majesty's Conservative Opposition, please to recollect; and as such he must, the throne of her Majesty being imperilled, at once step to the front to defend it. Mr. Disraeli did not shine very brilliantly on this occasion. His speech—as all allowed—was dull, tame, and ineffective; but the cause of this is not far to seek. The Conservative leader had some difficult steering to perform. He must assent to the motion, and yet, on the other hand, he must criticise if not censure the conduct of the Government. This is his special vocation; for to give the Government unqualified praise would be to make the confession that the right men are in office; whereas it is his duty, at all times and on all occasions, to hold to the contrary of this. Then there were the Irish members to consider, and two distinct classes of men: the class which approves of this strong measure—i.e., all the Irish landed proprietors—and the class which looks upon it with dislike. Many of both these classes sit on the Conservative side of the House. There is always a contest in Ireland upon the question, Who are the best friends of Ireland—the Liberals or the Conservatives? And in the House there is always observable to bystanders like ourselves a good deal of coquetting on both sides to secure the favours of the Irish beauties. Both parties would be glad if these Irish were away; but here they are, and they have votes. Mr. Disraeli had, then, to pick his way very carefully, and could not be expected to make a brilliant speech. Indeed, Mr. Disraeli never shines when there is no fight. He needs the inspiration of a battle. If you wish to hear the Conservative leader you should come down to the House late at night, when some fierce struggle for office is raging, and each party is massed in force, and Disraeli in person is delivering his final grand charge against the Government.

## THE POWER OF ORATORY.

Mr. Bright's speech was said to be ill-timed, mischievous, dangerous. Whigs, and Tories, and hybrids, all joined in this chorus, after the speech was delivered. Well, on this we have thus much, and no more, to say:—With those who do not wish a thing to be done there is never a right time to do it. But, well-timed or ill-timed, all acknowledge that this was a surpassingly great speech; and all the House felt its power, though many of the members did not agree with the statements and arguments of the speaker. This was proved by the devout attention with which they listened. Whigs, Conservatives, hybrids, and Radicals were for the time all under the spell of an enchanter; and, if we mistook not, some of the Conservatives paid homage to the power of the orator by suffering themselves to be betrayed into a cheer against their will. Did Lord Stanley cheer? Some assert that he did. Leaning forward, as he sat by the side of Disraeli, he fixed his eyes upon Mr. Bright; and we, too, fancied that we saw, though we could not hear, him cheer. And here we may say that it would not be at all inconsistent in him to applaud such a speech as this. He hangs loosely to his party, and to all parties. He has thought much of this Irish question, had much talk with the honourable member for Birmingham about it; indeed, these two, meeting accidentally in Ireland, travelled far together in a car, and no doubt keenly discussed the great subject of Ireland's misfortunes and wrongs. And now before we leave this subject let us say a few words upon what we consider to be one of the great charms of this speech. It lay not, then, in the facts, which were startling; nor in the argument, which was at once lofty and conclusive; but in a fine-grained tone of pathos and humanity which suffused and gave a charm to the whole. Mr. Bright can, we all know, be angry—even passionate—when he is discoursing about public wrongs; but on this occasion his pity for the sufferers seemed to overcome his indignation against the inflictors of the sufferings. He spoke more in sorrow than in anger.

## NEARLY OFF THE RAIL.

Mr. Roebuck followed Mr. Bright, and spoke after his manner, which we need not now describe; and then Mr. Horsman, who sits just below the member for Birmingham, leaped to his feet. Mr. Horsman had heard the notice given by Sir George Grey on the previous day, and conjecturing, or perhaps he had heard, that Mr. Bright would speak, he straightway set to work, as his manner is, to brew a speech in reply, and bottle it up till the occasion should come to uncork the bottle and pour out its contents upon the member for Birmingham's head; but when the time came, an accident happened, which for the moment very much disconcerted him. He, it would seem, had prepared his reply to something which he imagined Mr. Bright might, could, would, or should say. This, however, he did not say, nor anything like it; and when Mr. Bright, rising from his place, calmly said "There is not a word of this in my speech; the hon. gentleman is delivering a speech previously prepared," and loud laughter broke forth, Mr. Horsman got confused, and was, as one might say, nearly thrown off the rail at starting. The right hon. gentleman is, however, a clever and experienced debater; and, by judiciously backing a little, he got a fresh start, and went on at high pressure to the end. But the House, not having yet got away from the spell of the enchanter, did not seem to take so well to the right hon. gentleman's philippic. Speeches elaborately prepared, as all Mr. Horsman's are, often encounter accidents like this.

## RAPID LEGISLATION.

The bill passed both Houses, all obstructive standing orders having been suspended. And it was to have received the Royal assent that day, and to effect this costly preparations were made: a special messenger was sent to Osborne with the Royal Commission, with orders to wait until he should receive a telegram, and then he was to get the sign manual affixed, and return immediately by special steamboat and special train. With these arrangements it was expected that the Commission would arrive, at the latest, by eleven o'clock. And this it would have done, but for a wretched goods-train, which, unfortunately, got in the way of the Queen's messenger, and kept him waiting an hour and a half; the result of which was that the Royal Commission did not reach the House of Lords till half-past twelve. Meanwhile, the Houses having resumed at eleven, Mr. Speaker sat in his chair, and the Lord Chancellor on the woolsack, nodding to each other, as Mount Orifield is poetically said to nod to Helvellyn. At last the tardy messenger arrived, the Commons were sent for, and the bill received the Royal assent by Commission at a quarter to one o'clock on Sunday morning.

**THE VOTE ON THE HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION BILL.**—The eight members (including tellers) of the House of Commons voting last Saturday against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland were:—Mr. J. A. Blake, Waterford; Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Galway; Sir George Bowyer, Dundalk; Dr. Brady, Leitrim; Mr. J. B. Dillon, Tipperary; Mr. J. F. Maguire, Cork City; The O'Donoghue, Tralee; and Mr. D. J. Rearden, Athlone. It is worthy of note that on the last occasion—in July, 1848—when the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, the bill was likewise opposed by eight representatives of Irish constituencies. The minority was then ten, including tellers, but two Irishmen returned for English boroughs—Mr. Sharman Crawford and Mr. Feargus O'Connor—made up the number. It is also to be remarked that one of the members for Cork City was a teller on each occasion—Mr. Fagan having discharged the duty in 1848, and Mr. Maguire last Saturday.

**SUITORS' FEE FUND.**—The usual accounts have been laid before Parliament by the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery. In the year ending Oct. 1, 1865, the receipts of the suitors' fund showed, after payment of the salaries charged upon it, surplus interest amounting to £72,498 to be carried over to the suitors' fee fund. The receipts of this latter fund amounted to £186,908, and the salaries and expenses charged upon it, amounting to £169,768, left a surplus of £26,155, to which is to be added a balance of cash from the previous year amounting to £113,152, making a balance of £139,307 cash in November, 1865. The amount of fees paid into the suitors' fee fund in the year ending Nov. 25, 1864, was £98,435; in the year ending Nov. 25, 1865, £100,121.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl Russell stated that, in consequence of a communication received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, urging the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in that country, he must ask their Lordships to sit on Saturday at four o'clock.

The Earl of Malmesbury called attention to the deficiency in the means of saving human life on the coasts of the United Kingdom, and urged upon the Government the duty of providing adequate machinery at the public cost.

The Duke of Somerset bore high testimony to the use and value of the National Life-boat Institution, and objected to the Government undertaking a duty which that society had so well discharged.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE CATTLE PLAGUE BILL.

The House then went into Committee on Sir G. Grey's bill. Several clauses relating to collateral matters connected with the movement of cattle were negative, and on clause 31, which specifies the manner in which the compensation shall be provided.

Mr. CARNEGIE argued that, as the consumer was as deeply interested in the checking of the plague as the producer, some proportion of the compensation ought to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund.

Mr. AYTON took objection to the proposal to raise one third of the compensation by a cattle rate, and showed the hardship which it would inflict on the owners of diseased cattle.

Mr. J. S. MILL contended that farmers, in the long run, would suffer only in their capacity as consumers, and in consequence of the rise in prices would suffer no more than any other class of consumers. He argued, therefore, that it would be a great hardship on the consumers if they were called on to pay a rate to compensate the producers for a loss which would ultimately be made good by the natural course of trade. He maintained that the producers would not suffer as a class, but only as individuals, by the unequal manner in which the loss fell upon them; consequently, the only part of the clause which he approved was the rate on cattle.

Mr. E. Cochrane, Sir J. Pakington, Sir W. Jolliffe, and Mr. J. B. Smith having spoken,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER characterised the proposal to lay the Consolidated Fund under contribution as novel, inexpedient, and entirely unasked for by the agriculturists; and reminded the House of the forcible argument used by Mr. Lowe, that, to secure the great advantages of a local administration, it was necessary that some portion of the funds should be raised from local sources. As to the proposal to levy the whole by a general cattle rate, he said that the Government, in the particular proposal they had made, had acted on the principle that no persons were more interested in checking the disease than stockowners in the neighbourhood of infected districts, and they further believed that it would have the effect of preventing any kind of contest between town and country.

Mr. LOWE pointed out to the House that Mr. J. S. Mill's argument as to the ultimate incidence of the loss on the consumer was based on the fallacy that this was a bill to indemnify for losses, whereas the object of this part of it was simply to hold out an inducement to the farmer to disclose the existence of disease among his cattle. He asked Mr. Mill to mention a case in which producers had been indemnified for a great calamity of this kind by a rise in price, and reminded him that English cattle-growers had very formidable competitors in foreign importers.

Sir G. GREY intimated that the Government, seeing the feeling of the House, would give up their proposal of a cattle rate.

The clause was amended to this effect.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY, 17.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion of Earl Russell, the Habeas Corpus Act (Ireland) Suspension Bill was brought up and read a first time. The noble Earl justified the action of the Government in a statement similar to that made in the Commons by Sir G. Grey.

The Earl of Derby deplored the necessity of such a provision becoming necessary, but could not refuse his assent to it, as he was persuaded that her Majesty's Government would not have proposed such an extraordinary measure unless upon good and sufficient grounds.

The bill was then passed successively through all its stages, and the sitting was suspended until eleven o'clock.

It was nearly half an hour after midnight, however, before the Royal Commissioner arrived, when the assent of the Crown was given and the bill became law.

The Cattle Diseases Bill was brought up from the Commons and read a first time.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## SUSPENSION OF THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT IN IRELAND.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to suspend for a limited period the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland. The Right Hon. Baronet admitted that no Government ought lightly to ask for such extraordinary powers, and that no House of Commons ought on insufficient grounds to grant them; but he submitted that the state of the country was such as to warrant exceptional legislation. The Government in Ireland had already exhausted all the powers of the ordinary law to check a wicked and widespread conspiracy. It might be urged that the power now asked for ought to have been applied for earlier; but the answer was that the Government deemed it desirable to exhaust all Constitutional means before inviting Parliament to suspend the Constitution. The Fenian movement had received an enormous impetus since the termination of the war between the northern and southern States of America. Numbers of disbanded soldiers, provided with money by Irish Americans, and experienced in the art of war, were carrying on their treasonable designs in various parts of the country; and there was scarcely a regiment doing duty in Ireland to which those emissaries had not introduced themselves and had not endeavoured to tamper with the allegiance of the soldiers. This circumstance, combined with the seizure of large quantities of arms and ammunition, caused a widespread feeling of alarm to pervade the loyal portion of the public, who, not unnaturally, were apprehensive of an immediate rising and a simultaneous attack upon life and property. Detachments of troops had been sent to various districts, in order to afford protection to the Queen's subjects, and the Lord Lieutenant had proclaimed counties to a greater extent than had ever been done before. The number of Irish-American agents in the country was computed at 500 at least; but he felt bound to say that the Government of the United States had not lent any encouragement or countenance to the movement. The disaffection which existed in the counties of Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, and Dublin was alarming; and a brutal murder had been committed in Dublin, the victim being a person who was suspected of having given information to the police. Such being the condition of affairs, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland wrote to the Government on Thursday last urging upon the Cabinet the necessity of submitting a measure to Parliament which would strengthen his hands, and enable him to deal with greater vigour against the enemies of law and order. Under these circumstances, the Government deemed it to be their duty to lay the facts before the House of Commons, and to ask them to pass a bill to suspend the Act of Habeas Corpus in Ireland for a period of six months. A continuance of the present state of things in Ireland would paralyse industry, deter capitalists from investing money in the country, and grievously interfere with the peace and prosperity of the kingdom.

Mr. DISRAELI was not disposed to blame the Government for having hesitated before asking Parliament to grant the extraordinary power of suspending the Habeas Corpus Act; but it struck him as strange that, knowing the state of Ireland so well as they did, they allowed a bill to be repealed last year which would have enabled them to deal with the present difficulty without asking Parliament for such extraordinary powers. He did not intend to oppose the proposition of the Government, but he should follow the course which he pursued in 1848 under similar circumstances, when, by an unhappy destiny, the present First Minister of the Crown was obliged to appeal to Parliament to sanction an infraction of the Constitution. He did not think that the present menacing situation of Ireland was produced by any domestic or internal cause, and he should therefore give his cordial support to the Government. He trusted also that the House would show that it was resolved to maintain the rights, powers, and authority of her Majesty.

Mr. BRIGHT owned that he felt deep shame and humiliation at the position in which the House was placed. The Government of the day had again proposed to deprive no inconsiderable portion of the subjects of the Queen within the United Kingdom of the most sacred of the rights of the English Constitution—the right to their personal freedom. While admitting that he did not believe the Secretary of State had oversteered the case in order to induce Parliament to give its sanction to his proposition, he could not conceal the conviction which he himself felt, that there must be some latent cause for the chronic disaffection which prevailed in Ireland. In any country but their own, Irishmen developed the highest qualities of the human race; but so deep-rooted was their hostility to British rule on account of long ages of persistent misgovernment, that, when they went to America, they looked back upon the country of their birth with ineradicable hatred. As there could not be smoke without fire, he did not believe that there could be widespread disaffection without a cause; and he called upon the leading statesmen of the empire to endeavour to find out that cause and apply the proper remedy. The present insurrectionary movement might be put down, but the germs of the malady would remain, and, without remedial measures to check it, the result would be another harvest of disaffection.

Mr. ROEBUCK acknowledged that Ireland had been misgoverned for centuries by England, but he denied that any cause of complaint now existed. He charged Mr. Bright with adding his voice to the whine which was so often got up about Ireland; and he expressed his belief that, if the country were to get self-government to-morrow, there would be a bloody civil war of races. The north would rise against the south, and the probability was that the south would get the worst of it.



Mr. HORSMAN accused Mr. Bright with having fired off the speech which he had intended to deliver the first night of the Session in the amendment of the O'Donoghue to the Irish paragraph in the Address. The speech of the hon. member for Birmingham left it in doubt whether he was in favour of the Government or of the Fenians.

Mr. DILLON, while disavowing the slightest sympathy with Fenianism addressed himself to the two great sources of disaffection in Ireland—the absence of a measure of tenant-right, and the existence of the Established Church; and called upon the Government to legislate in those directions, and thus secure the confidence and affections of the Irish people.

Mr. J. S. MILL agreed with Mr. Bright that the occasion was one for deep grief and humiliation. There was, he believed, a desire on the part of the House to condone for years of misgovernment in Ireland; but good intentions were not sufficient, and would never remove the grievances complained of.

Sir J. GRAY, in a maiden speech which evidently made a favourable impression on the House, commented upon the real objects of Fenianism, which, in his opinion, had nothing virtuous or patriotic about them. Its mission was to attack life and property; and the Roman Catholic clergy, knowing such to be the fact, had one and all arrayed themselves against it. The best proof of the hostility of the Fenians to the dignitaries and clergy of the Catholic Church was that they had filed an indictment against the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin for expressing, through the public press, his opinion of their objects, and in that prosecution he (Sir J. Gray) was himself included. The people of Ireland had, however, substantial grievances to complain of, and he recommended the Government, if they would not encourage disaffection, to apply themselves seriously to the removal of the causes of irritation.

The O'DONOGHUE opposed the bill as mischievous, and calculated to excite instead of allay disaffection. Coercion was not what Ireland required. She wanted wise and statesmanlike legislation, not measures of repression.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER considered that no fallacy could be propagated in connection with the present subject more dangerous in its character than the supposition that the proceedings in which the House was engaged were an appeal to a substantially English Parliament to apply the hand of force to Ireland. The Government were in possession of abundant evidence to satisfy every person that measures of repression were now necessary. That was the duty of the day, and when the proper time came for declaring the intentions of the Government with respect to such remedial measures as in their opinion ought to be applied, the Cabinet would not be found backward in declaring them.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—

For leave to bring in the bill .. .. .	364
Noes .. .. .	6

Majority .. 358

The bill was then brought up, and, the standing orders being suspended, it was passed through all its stages without further opposition.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

The Cattle Diseases Bill was read a third time and passed. The Cattle Plague Bill of Mr. W. Hunt was committed pro forma.

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Telegraph Act Amendment Bill, the object of which was to give to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland the power of taking possession of the telegraphs in that country, was brought in and read a second time, and, the standing orders having been suspended, the bill was read a third time and passed.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

On the motion of Earl GRANVILLE the Cattle Disease Bill was read a second time, and, the standing orders having been suspended, the House went into Committee on the bill.

The Earl of AILMIE moved an amendment to the 12th clause, giving to the local authorities a discretionary power to slaughter or refrain from slaughtering animals certified to be recovering from disease.

The proposal gave rise to some debate, in which the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Derby, the Duke of Richmond, and other Lords took part, and ended in a division and the rejection of the amendment by 52 to 15. An amendment, proposed by the Earl of Lichfield, to the effect that the inspector should be required to assign a reason for entering a farmer's premises prior to his inspection, and not afterwards, was also negatived, upon a division, by 22 to 21. The bill then went through Committee, and was read a third time and passed.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

The House having gone into Committee on the Cattle Plague Bill, which relates principally to the movement of cattle,

Mr. W. HUNT explained that his object had been to endeavour to establish a code that would be sufficiently elastic to apply to every county in Great Britain. The bill would absolutely prohibit the movement of cattle on all highways, railways, rivers, and canals, up to the 25th of March next—with these exceptions only, that beasts might be conveyed along a highway from one farm to another for 200 yards; where landed from a sea-going steamer they might travel on the highway for 500 yards; and in going from the farm to the slaughter-house they might traverse a distance on the highway not exceeding two miles. Newly-dropped calves might be conveyed in carts from the place in which they were born to the farms where they were to be reared; working oxen employed in the cultivation of the soil and in harness, which was some security for their being in health, might also be moved for a distance to be specified, and, to enable emigrant and other rearing ships to get a supply of milk on board, milch cows might be conveyed to them in covered carts. By adopting these precautions he hoped the plague would be got within manageable compass by March 25. From that date it would be necessary to still further relax the restrictions upon the movement of cattle. Then in-coming tenants took possession of their farms, and he proposed that beasts for the stocking or restocking of farms might be moved by license at any time during fourteen days from any quarter-day after public notice. For the purposes of breeding, a cow or heifer might be moved with a license for any distance not exceeding three miles, and a bull twenty miles. In like manner calves might be removed, provided they were sound and not more than twenty-one days old.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Royal assent was given, by commission, to the Cattle Diseases Bill. The Earl of Derby called attention to the Order in Council with respect to the smallpox amongst sheep in Northamptonshire, and inquired how far that disease had extended.

Earl Granville said that the Government had only just heard of the revival of the smallpox amongst sheep in Northamptonshire, and that the Order in Council was at once issued in the hope that it would be as successful as a similar order had been two months ago.

Messages were received from the Queen asking the House to concur with the Commons in making suitable provision for Princess Helena on her approaching marriage with Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, and for the maintenance of Prince Alfred on his coming of age.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES, IRELAND.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Sir R. Peel, said that no changes were contemplated in the charter or constitution of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland. With regard to those contemplated in the charter and constitution of the Queen's University, he might best describe them by saying they were such as were indicated by the Home Secretary in the last Session.

#### PRINCESS HELENA AND PRINCE ALFRED.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought up a message from the Queen inviting the House to make such provision with a view to the proposed marriage of the Princess Helena as might be suitable to the dignity of the Crown; also a second message from her Majesty expressing her self desirous of making competent provision for the maintenance of her second son, Prince Alfred, on his coming of age, and recommending the House to adopt such measures as might be suitable to the occasion. The right hon. gentleman gave notice that on Thursday next he should move that the House resolve itself into Committee for the purpose of taking these messages into consideration; and that on the same evening he should move an address to the Queen requesting her to give directions for erecting a monument to the memory of the late Lord Palmerston, and assuring her Majesty that the House would make good the expense to be incurred thereby.

#### DWELLINGS FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

Mr. M'C. TORRENS obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide better dwellings for artisans and labourers, and explained the method by which he proposed to accomplish this object.

#### EDUCATIONAL FRANCHISE.

Mr. CLAY, after some discussion, obtained leave to introduce a bill to extend the elective franchise for cities and boroughs in England and Wales by the creation of an educational qualification. This qualification, he explained, was that any man of full age should have the right of submitting himself to be examined before the Civil Service Commissioners, and upon such examination should receive a certificate, which would entitle him to be placed on the register of voters for the borough.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

New writs were issued for Tiverton, Brecknock, North Lancashire, London, Sunderland, Ripon, and Leominster. Some of these vacancies were occasioned by death, others by the recent appointments.

Sir G. Grey, in reply to a question, expressed the opinion that a special service to implore the removal of the cattle plague would be more expedient than the appointment of a day of humiliation.

Sir C. O'Loughlin moved the second reading of his Juries in Criminal Cases Bill. After a discussion, it was postponed until after the decision in the Winsor case shall have been given.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

#### THE QUEEN'S MESSAGES.

The clerk at the table read the Queen's Messages with respect to suitable provisions proposed to be made for her Royal Highness Princess Helena, on her coming marriage with Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein; and for his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, on his coming of age. After the reading of the Messages, the House declared, through the Lord Chancellor, that it would with cheerful alacrity consider these messages emanating from her Majesty, and that it always desired to co-operate with her in all matters for the advancement of the Royal interests.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### THE ROYAL MESSAGES—PROVISION FOR THE PRINCESS HELENA AND PRINCE ALFRED.

The House went into Committee on the Royal Messages in reference to provision being made for Princess Helena on the occasion of her marriage, and for Prince Alfred on his attaining his majority.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, after referring to the rules and considerations in reference to the provision for the Sovereign, said the provision did not include, and could not include, that which related to the members of the Royal family as they came to an adult age, and went out into the world. It therefore devolved upon Parliament to consider what course in each case it might be suitable to take. The right hon. gentleman concluded by moving that the following sums be taken from the Consolidated Fund—viz., a dower of £30,000, and a grant of £6000 a year to her Royal Highness Princess Helena, and the annual sum of £15,000 to be granted to her Majesty for settlement on his Royal Highness Prince Alfred for life, in such manner as her Majesty shall think proper.

Mr. DISRAELI characterised the proposition of her Majesty's Ministers as well considered and judicious.

After some remarks from Mr. Bouvier and Sir G. Bowyer, progress was reported to the House.

#### MONUMENT TO LORD PALMERSTON.

The House again went into Committee, when the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER brought forward the motion of which he had given notice, praying that her Majesty would give directions that a monument be erected in St. Peter's, Westminster, to the memory of Viscount Palmerston. He passed an eloquent eulogium on the late Premier, and concluded by formally moving his resolution.

Mr. DISRAELI said that he could not allow such an occasion to pass in silence on his side of the House. The vote just proposed was acquiesced in by him and his colleagues with the warmest sympathy. The motion for the reception of the Message of her Majesty and the vote for the monument were then put, and carried unanimously.

#### SALE OF LAND BY AUCTION BILL.

Their Lordships having gone into Committee on this bill, a lengthened discussion ensued. The result was that the House resumed upon the understanding that the bill would be recommitted, for the purpose of carrying out some suggestions of Lord Romilly.

#### JAMAICA.

After some discussion this bill was read a second time.

#### CATTLE PLAGUE BILL.

The House then went again into Committee on the Cattle Plague Bill, which, with some amendments, passed through Committee.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1866.

### THE HOMELESS YOUTH OF LONDON.

It is not well that the raw material of humanity should be allowed to run to waste, and yet it is indisputable that the process goes on from year to year on a pretty extensive scale in the British metropolis. And the human tree—if we may be allowed to use such a figure—like some other trees, will not merely, if left uncultivated, run out into wildness: it will produce noxious fruit also. Human beings, like the earth and its products, to be wholesome, must be cared for. We cannot leave anything untended and escape deleterious consequences. It is, therefore, the interest as it is the duty of society, conjointly and severally, to do all that is possible to prevent any of its members running to waste. There are in London thousands of children of both sexes who may be likened to the class of trees which, when cultivated, pruned, and tended, produce fruit not only pleasant to the taste, but wholesome to the constitution; but which, if neglected, relapse into wildness and produce nought but poisonous fruits. Society, to a large extent, neglects to look after the children of the streets; leaves them to live how they can, and learn what they may; and these neglected ones, growing up to be instruments of punishment for the sins of omission committed against them, prey upon the community in a career, long or short, of crime. The shifts to which our youthful pariahs are put render them preternaturally acute, sharp, and cunning; and these are precisely the qualities which make the skilful and daring thief and burglar. It would be a cheap as well as a righteous course for society to care for those who have none other to care for them.

Workhouses, gaols, and reformatories may do much to rescue the friendless children of large towns from a life of crime, and therefore of misery; but they seem inadequate to do all that is needed. We still have wild branches shooting out from the social tree, and, parasite-like, sucking the juice from

the parent trunk. We cannot lop these branches off. We cannot apply the pruning-knife, and cut them away and cast them into the fire; but we may and can train them to honest courses and apply them to wholesome uses. The Queen wants soldiers and sailors. Some of the children of the streets, according to their inclinations, might be trained to follow these professions, and to supply, in some degree at least, these wants. Others might be fitted for work in the colonies, where labour is always in request. In these and other ways the boys might be utilised, and rendered useful in their day and generation. For the girls, equally good fields are open. Domestic servants, we are constantly being told, are scarce and bad. Some portion of the friendless girls of large towns might be provided for in this way; and for the rest, are not wives wanted in all her Majesty's colonial possessions? and might not thousands of young females who are now left to run a career of misery and degradation be easily fitted for brightening the homes of our brethren in Canada and at the antipodes, and made competent to be the nursing mothers of future nations of the Anglo-Saxon race? To be the friend of the friendless is a work worthy of the purest and best among us; to be the means of saving the lost and rescuing those ready to perish would add a halo to the brightest coronet in the land.

We doubt not that there are men and women in all ranks of society who would gladly aid such an effort did they but see the way. Some can take an active part in the work; some can supply the means: each can do a part. A beginning in this useful and benevolent task was made last week by inviting the homeless boys of London to a supper at the Refuge in Parker-street, Drury-lane. Bringing these waifs together, relieving their bodily wants, speaking to them in a kindly fashion, and so winning their confidence, will pave the way for inducing them to accept the opportunities of education and training to fit them for useful and honourable lives which we hope soon to see provided for them. We must be careful, however, how we go to work. Mere talking will accomplish little; coercion probably nothing, if not mischief. We must neither play the parson nor the policeman—preaching and compulsion will be alike repellant, and our aim should be to attract, and not to repel. It is said that the way to an Englishman's heart lies through his pocket; it is much more certainly true that the way to draw towards you those whose whole life has taught them to be suspicious, because suspected, is by ministering to their physical comforts. And voluntary action on the one side is as essential to the reformation and deliverance of juvenile outcasts as voluntary acquiescence is essential to success on the other. It has been said that there is no necessity for further machinery for the objects we are advocating; that we already have workhouses and reformatories; and that the homeless youth of both sexes may be sent to these by application to a policeman and a magistrate. But workhouses, policemen, and magistrates are not inviting objects to the class we desire to deal with; and there are many who need aid who have not rendered themselves amenable to the attentions of the administrators of the law. Voluntary action, we repeat, is the best means, and the one most likely to succeed. Compelled virtue is but a surface affair, and little likely to be permanent. With some of these children we might fail; but with most, we believe, we should succeed. The proposal, therefore, to establish homes and training-schools, either on land or afloat, we hail with great satisfaction, and trust that the hands of such men as Mr. Williams will be strengthened by the sympathy and support of the general public. There is no want of large-hearted men to work out the details of such a scheme; funds only are required; and surely in such a country as England, and particularly in such a city as London, these will not be lacking.

### EMPLOYMENT OF GIRLS IN MINES.

"OLD Father Antic, the Law," occasionally plays queer pranks, or allows queer pranks to be played. Some years ago an Act of Parliament was passed prohibiting the employment of boys under a certain age in mines, but it appears that the authors of the measure forgot to extend its provisions to girls; and the consequence is, that females of tender years are now engaged in work underground which, under any circumstances and at any age, is unsuited to their sex. It is repugnant to the feelings of men, and must be much more so to those of women, of any refinement, to think of females being engaged in mining operations; but when we find that even girls of from ten to fourteen years of age are set to guide coal-waggons in the bowels of the earth, it is time that a decided protest were entered against such practices. A poor girl of tender years was left, unaided and uninstructed, to govern a train of waggons in a colliery near Wigan the other day; and the result, as might have been anticipated, was that she lost control over her charge and was crushed to death. And this, it seems, is neither an isolated practice nor an exceptional occurrence. We are told that numerous young girls are employed in similar work in the same neighbourhood, and probably in others; and all from an oversight in the wording of an Act of Parliament! If such be the case, the sooner that oversight is rectified the better; and we hope that some member of Parliament will at once take the matter up, and so amend the law as to make impossible not only the recurrence of such an incident as the one to which we refer, but to prevent the employment of females—at all events, young females—in mines altogether. The life and labours of the miner are bad enough, irksome enough, and unhealthy enough, even for strong men; it is barbarous—little less than murder—to subject tender girls and weak women to such an ordeal.





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GEORGE JOACHIM GOSCHEN, ESQ., M.P., CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER.



WILLIAM EDWARD FORSTER, ESQ., M.P., UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES.

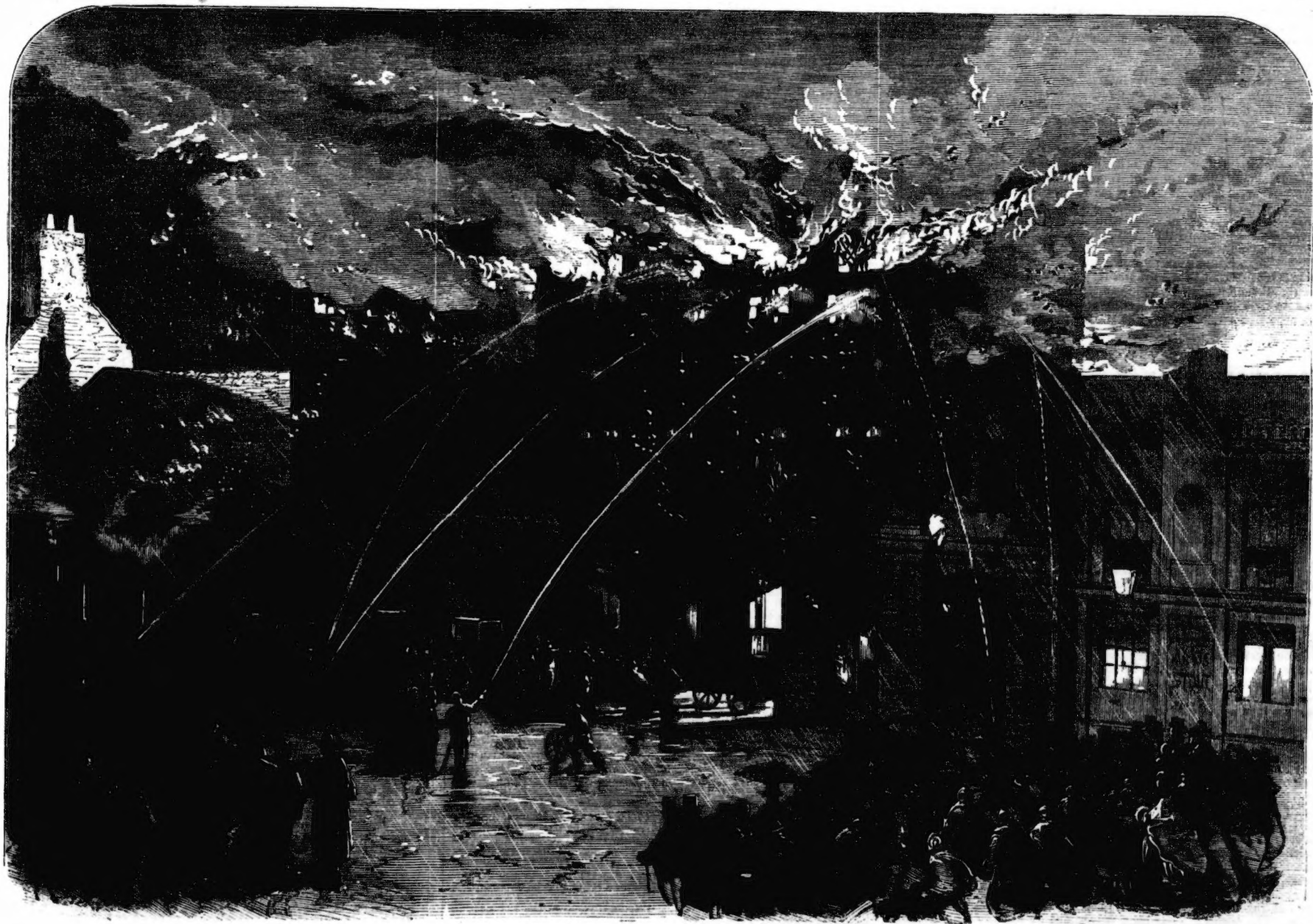
(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. AND C. WATKINS.)

**MR. GOSCHEN.**

THE Right Hon. George Joachim Goschen, M.P. for the city of London and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, whose rapid rise in political life has been so much commented upon, was born in 1831, and is, consequently, only in his thirty-fifth year. He was

educated at Rugby, and at Oriel College, Oxford, of which he holds a B.A. degree. Mr. Goschen was first returned for London in 1863, and again, at the head of the poll, in 1865. Some years ago he published a book on the theory of foreign exchanges, and almost immediately on entering the House of Commons

made a position for himself as a superior speaker. Shortly after Earl Russell succeeded to the Premiership, Mr. Goschen was appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade; but this office he had only held for a short time, when he was transferred to the Duchy of Lancaster, with a seat in the Cabinet. It is



GREAT FIRE AT LAURIE AND MARNER'S, OXFORD-STREET.



generally understood that the rapid promotion of Mr. Goschen was made at the instance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, it is said, was desirous of having at his back a man thoroughly conversant with financial affairs, to help him in the discharge of the onerous duties of his office, to which are now added the leadership of the House of Commons. Mr. Goschen was for several years a member of the firm of Fruhling and Goschen, his connection with which, however, he has now relinquished.

#### MR. WILLIAM EDWARD FORSTER, M.P.

MR. WILLIAM EDWARD FORSTER, M.P. for Bradford, and Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, is the only son of William Forster, who was more than fifty years a minister of the Society of Friends, and died in Tennessee, whither he had gone on an anti-slavery mission. The mother of the Under-Secretary was the sister of the late Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, the first Baronet. Mr. Forster was born in 1818, and is therefore forty-eight years old, having just turned the point which philosophers tell us is the top of the hill, when we begin slowly to descend. He married Jane Martha, eldest daughter of the late Doctor Arnold, the celebrated Master of Rugby School. Mr. Forster has no children—that is to say, none of his own, for he has adopted all the children of one of Dr. Arnold's sons, who died some years ago in the prime of life, leaving these children but scantily provided for. We believe these orphans all live with Mr. Forster, and that, in short, he has recognised them as his own. Long before he came into Parliament Mr. Forster was widely known as an active intelligent magistrate, a zealous and earnest philanthropist, and a politician of widely liberal principles and enlarged views. In 1859 he contested Leeds, but was defeated by Mr. Boecroft, the present Conservative member, by 2302 votes against 2280; but in 1861, when Mr. Titus Salt, of Saltaire, disgusted with Parliamentary life, retired, Mr. Forster was returned, without opposition, for Bradford, where he has a large business as a worsted manufacturer; and last year he was again returned for the same place, unopposed. Mr. Forster, very soon after he entered the House, began to take part in the discussions, and speedily gained the reputation of being a very able and useful debater. He is not an orator, neither is he a mere dry debater; for on more than one occasion he has spoken with great eloquence, force, and effect.

Mr. Forster has long been deemed a rising man. Mr. Cobden had from the first a high opinion of him, and thought that he would be certain to attain and keep a prominent position in the House. His accession to office took nobody by surprise, for most men in the House thought that he was culminating towards an official position; and we venture to say that everybody who knows him believes that he entered the Ministry without compromise of principle, and that, if ever it should happen that he cannot hold his place without a sacrifice of principle, he will leave it. Though he is decidedly from a Quaker family, he does not inherit the opinions of "the Friends" on war, for he is a Captain in the 23rd West Riding Volunteer Corps, and a crack shot.

#### BIRD SHOW AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE annual show of canaries and other British and foreign birds was opened, on Saturday last, at the Crystal Palace, and was one of the best ever held in this country.

Canaries of every colour and form were numerous, and good enough; and, whether looking at the clear yellow buff Norwich, the Jonque London fancy, the crested Belgian, the golden-spangled lizards, or any other of the numerous varieties of canaries, the connoisseur found plenty to admire. The canary class was indeed full and perfect. Amongst the class of British birds there was little remarkable. All those with which we are here familiar—such as magpies, bullfinches, linnets, skylarks, woodlarks, thrushes, starlings, and birds of that kind—were fairly represented; and the only novelty, perhaps, was a gyr falcon, resembling an ill-looking owl, more remarkable for its ugliness and novelty than anything else. Having simply mentioned the fact that birds of passage were to be seen in respectable numbers, we pass on to the foreign birds, amongst which the cockatoos and parrots were very interesting, and it may be added, very noisy. Some excellent gold and silver and other pheasants were exhibited, and one mule between a cock pheasant and a game hen was especially noticeable as a peculiarity not often met with. In the nave there was a brood of tame partridges and some interesting Australian products. Two very fine opossums and an emu, or native companion, were there to be seen, and common as they are "in the bush" in Australia, they are even now novelties in this country. There were altogether about 900 exhibitors, showing about 2000 birds (a considerable increase on the number of last year), of the value, probably, of about £3000. The principal exhibitors appeared to be Messrs. Baum, Judd, Walter (of Winchester), Newmarch, Pullen, and Dole. The bird show took place in the tropical department, and the exhibits were so judiciously arranged that, though the attendances were very large, those who desired to inspect minutely these specimens of the feathered tribe had little difficulty in doing so.

The ordinary attractions of the palace are at present of a very superior description, and, altogether, the great glass structure at Sydenham is one of the most pleasant and instructive in the world. It now presents all the beauties of a perfect winter garden; but, in a few weeks, to these will be added the glories of the spring flowers in the grounds, when a visit to it will be a treat indeed.

#### HORNSEY WOOD HOUSE.

THERE are a good many middle-aged people who will learn with a sort of regret that another of the haunts of their youth is about to disappear before those alterations of which only a few are in any true sense improvements. In this case, however, it may be some alleviation to a natural pang to learn that the old resort will be superseded by one of those large breathing spaces, of which Londoners have far too few assigned and secured to them.

A park for Finsbury is about to be formed beyond Islington, and the days of Hornsey Wood, or, at all events, of the house that bears its name, are numbered. The village of Hornsey itself will probably remain but little altered for a time, until the new park gives an unhealthy stimulus to speculative building schemes, and a brand new suburb is added to the vast wilderness of bricks and mortar, which already stretches far beyond the confines of what were but a short time ago the outlying rural suburbs.

Under its old name of Haringhee the place was principally famous for the splendid palace belonging to the then Bishop of London, and from part of the materials of this building it is said the old church was originally built. The church and the village, however, are away from the site which will be taken into the park, for it is between them and Highbury Barn—now, as always, famous, though for far different reasons—that the small copse known as "Hornsey Wood" is waiting for the excavators. It may be hoped that it will escape those remorseless levellers, however, for it is not so easy to grow a copse as to root out one; and, though this little scrubby bit of woodland on the banks of the New River has dwindled, peaked, and pined for the last dozen years, it might yet revive under favourable influences and renew old associations in the breasts of hundreds of willing visitors. Who cannot remember the wonderful summer-evening jaunts to Hornsey-wood House—that self-depreciatory, and yet not unpretentious, tavern, which had about it the air of a tea-garden trying to persuade itself into the belief that it was a mansion? What pleasant, cockney gipsyings were carried on under the shelter of those green trellises; what love-making in the devious walks; what contemplative talk over country ale and French loaves and cheese, or shrimps and tea; what unpacking of little private stores of tempting eatables; what harmless mirth amidst a subdued sense of rural pleasures! Much of this has left the place of late years. The *genius loci* has been driven out by railway whistles and modern improvements, and the house has fallen upon evil times, as the resort of "sportsmen" who went thither to shoot tame pigeons against time at a yard distance. There are moments when it would

seem well if men could die, and so leave some pleasing recollection of their early youth in the minds of survivors. It is the same with houses whose later years abuse the promise of early innocence; and it is especially the case with taverns where the virtuous shrimp and the peaceful periwinkle are discarded for more exciting viands; and the tea, ale, or negus of honest festivity give place to the champagne-cup, alternating with reeking brandy. One does not so much mean that all this has come upon Hornsey-wood House even yet; but there have been indications about the place that it had better be pulled down while memories of the past in connection with it are yet unsullied by unseemly police reports and recent brawls. There is no longer fishing or boating in the New River; that has ceased long ago, except to the privileged few who can get a director's permission to cast a fly along the banks leading to the sluice-house. The wood itself needs fresh care and better culture to prevent its degenerating into a mere scrubby waste patch. The uses of the House are gone, and we have no more to do than to preserve the memory of it in our pages before the place where it stands shall be lost in the great area of the new park for the people, who, when they desire a true country ramble, can go by railway to scenes and places which would formerly have been far beyond their reach even in a day's holiday.

#### GREAT FIRE IN OXFORD-STREET.

ON the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 14, about half-past seven o'clock, the greatest confusion was caused in Oxford-street, between Hanover-square and New Bond-street, in consequence of the sudden outbreak of a tremendous fire in the well-known premises belonging to Messrs. Laurie and Marner, carriage-builders. The premises in question occupied a frontage in Oxford-street of about 100 ft., or 120 ft. wide, and extended downwards as far as Hanover-square. The building was several floors in height; and, besides the upper ones, used as factories, painting, varnishing, and polishing compartments, the other floors were used as show-rooms. A police-constable had his attention directed to one of the upper workshops at the back of the main building by seeing black and red smoke pouring forth. He at once rung the front bells, and gave the usual alarm to the residents on both sides of the building, and at the same time sent off for the Royal Society's escapes and also for the fire-engines. In the course of a few minutes the engines arrived from Wells-street, King-street, Baker-street, and many other stations, as well as several powerful land-steamers, and the engines of the parish of St. Ann, Soho, and Marylebone. The turncocks belonging to the Grand Junction Water Company quickly arrived, and plugs were drawn both in Hanover-square and Oxford-street, and the water flew up almost as high as the first floor of the houses, both back and front. At that moment his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Sutherland, and the Hon. Captain Howard arrived. The firemen displayed the utmost alacrity in getting the hose from the different land-steamers and manual engines properly connected, so as to enable them to get the water to bear upon the burning pile. By that time, however, the flames had taken complete possession of not only the back workshops, but they had likewise enveloped the upper floors of the front premises, and as the flames shot forth the whole of the western portion of the metropolis became brilliantly illuminated. This caused so many thousand persons to assemble that it was deemed necessary to send to Scotland-yard for all the police that could be spared on such an emergency. When they arrived they kept a clear space for the working of the engines. At midnight the fire was not entirely extinguished, although all danger of any further extension of mischief was over. The total loss by this disastrous event must amount to some thousands of pounds. Such an extensive fire has not been witnessed at the West-End for years. The official report of Captain Shaw, presented to the Metropolitan Board of Works, states that of the building, consisting of four floors each, about 110 ft. in length by 80 ft., an upper floor, used as workshops, was burnt out, and the second floor damaged by fire and water. The lower floors were also damaged by water, and the stock by removal. Upwards of sixty men of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, with six steam fire and six hand engines, were engaged in extinguishing the fire. The cause of it is said to be unknown. The building and its contents were insured in the County, Westminster, Sun, Royal Exchange, and other offices. Fortunately, the whole of the carriages and equipages in the show-rooms on the ground floor were saved. Some of the adjacent houses were at one time in peril—that of the Royal Academy of Music in Tenterden-street, Hanover-square, among others—and more or less damage was done to the roofs by the operations of the firemen and by the hasty removal of furniture. Mr. Ferguson, a licensed victualler; Mr. W. Ferguson, watchmaker; and Messrs. Coutan and Co., upholsterers, were among the losers in these respects, but they are all supposed to be insured.

THE CARNIVAL AT ROME.—A communication from Rome says:—"The carnival, favoured by magnificent weather, began tamely enough, but ended brilliantly. The first three days were dedicated to mourning for Prince Ocho. The National Committee had issued its orders; the Romans obeyed with their usual docility, and the police did not think proper to distribute money to the persons in their pay to lead to the belief that the people were happy and well satisfied. All this produced much coldness in the first part of the entertainments, but the end was animated. After having expressed their political sentiments by a silent manifestation, the Romans abandoned themselves to pleasure with much zest. The Corso, before almost deserted, was filled, and the masked balls in the theatres were thronged with visitors. The private fêtes were particularly brilliant; but all were eclipsed by the magnificence of that given by Prince Borghese, who spent, it is said, fabulous sums in getting it up."

LIFE-BOATS.—In the House of Lords, on Friday week, Lord Malmesbury called the attention of the Government to the expediency of making a grant to the National Life-boat Institution, to assist it in placing additional life-boats on the coasts. The Duke of Somerset replied by stating that the public support to the life-boat institution was amply adequate to meet the requirements of the coast. In fact, judging from the returns the institution had obtained from coastguard officers and other competent persons as to the necessity of additional life-boats on the coasts of the United Kingdom, it was clearly stated that there were very few places, indeed, that required new life-boats. There are now altogether about 200 life-boats on our coasts, and of this number 162 belong to the National Life-boat Institution. We are glad that the institution has thus positively refused any Government help, which, as most of our readers are aware, means Government control, and sometimes Government inefficiency. The institution is now the glory of England, and its life-boat the marvel of the sea. It has contributed, altogether, to the saving of about 15,000 persons since its first establishment; and we feel assured that so long as the society continues in its present state of thorough efficiency, so long the people of England will continue to support it in a liberal manner.

WHAT SUSPENSION OF THE HABEAS CORPUS MEANS.—Under the law of England no man's personal liberty can be restrained unless by due course of law, and in order to secure to every man this constitutional immunity, the common law provides that any person aggrieved by illegal imprisonment is entitled to a writ of right, technically named *Habeas Corpus ad subjiciendum*, directed to the person detaining him, who is commanded by it to produce the body of the prisoner, with a statement of the law and cause of his capture and detention, *ad faciendum, subjiciendum, et recipiendum*; to do, submit to, and receive whatsoever the judge or court awarding such writ shall consider in that behalf. This common law process was secured and explained from time to time by various statutes, from the Great Charter and Petition of Right down to the 31st Charles II., c. 2, and the Irish Act 21st and 22nd George II., c. 11, by which two latter statutes the methods of obtaining the writ in England and Ireland are pointed out. The general effect of the law as it stood on last Saturday morning was that, on complaint and request in writing by or on behalf of any person committed and charged with any crime, the Lord Chancellor, or any of the twelve Judges, was bound to award a *habeas corpus* for such prisoner, immediately returnable, and that within two days the party, if bailable, should be discharged. In the case of committal for crimes not bailable, the accused person could require, under the protection of the same writ of right, to be indicted in the next term or next session of Oyer and Terminer, and if acquitted, or if not indicted and tried in the second term or session, he was entitled to be discharged from his imprisonment for the imputed offence. The effect of the legislation of Saturday is to suspend the efficacy of the writ of *habeas corpus*, whereby the executive officers of the Crown are freed from legal responsibility for arresting and imprisoning any person to whom a crime may be imputed, and the person so imprisoned is deprived of the privileges of insisting upon being admitted to bail or being indicted and tried. Thus during the term of suspension defined by Parliament, the Crown can imprison suspected persons without giving any reason for so doing, the nation by its representatives—Queen, Lords, and Commons—agreeing to place a portion of its liberty for awhile in abeyance, in order to preserve the whole for ever.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF PRUSSIA is engaged in writing a history of the Electoral Princes of Brandenburg.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has been turning his attention of late to the English system of public school education, and has sent to this country two accomplished French gentlemen to report on its capabilities and merits.

THE DUC D'AUJALE and the Duc d'Alençon are going to Australia, and intend to make the tour of the world.

MR. H. FENWICK, M.P., the new vice-president of the Board of Trade, is dangerously ill.

MAZZINI has been elected to the Italian Parliament for Messina. He has received 311 votes against 169 given to his opponent, Bottari.

THE FRENCH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE has sent M. Delpech, Professor of Medicine; M. Raynal, Veterinarian; and M. Alfort, to Germany, to examine and report upon the trichine disease prevalent in pork.

THE 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards has been sent to Ireland.

THE CHILIAN BLOCKADE is now limited to Valparaiso and Coquimbo.

THE ENGINEERS OF HULL—upwards of 1000 in number—have struck for an advance of wages.

THE CIGAR-SHIP, *Ross Winans*, was launched at the shipyard of Mr. Hepworth, Cubitt Town, Isle of Dogs, on Monday.

SPARROWS are now seen in the streets of Ballarat, Australia, having been completely acclimatised there.

LORD DUNRAVEN has been elected an Irish Representative Peer.

THE QUEEN'S CONCERT-ROOMS, Hanover-square, may now be engaged for morning concerts from ten a.m.

THE FAMILY BURIAL VAULT of the Duke of Buckingham, at Wootton, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, has been broken into, and a silver-bilted sword, with an embossed scabbard, stolen, together with a quantity of silver and other coffin ornaments.

A BALLOON TRAIN, to ply between the Place de la Concorde and the Champs de Mars, is spoken of as one of the schemes to be tried during the great Exhibition next year.

CERTAIN LADIES OF NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD are about to forward a memorial to the authorities of the Durham University, praying them to extend the benefits of the local examinations by throwing them open to girls as well as to boys.

MRS. WARD is engaged on a picture representing the last great trial of Paltsey the Potter—i.e., when he had broken the imperfect specimens of his skill, notwithstanding the oburgations of his wife, the woful distress of his children, and the threatening importunities of his creditors. All these personages appear in the picture.

LICENSE has been granted at Paris to MM. Carvalho and Hostein to construct a vast theatre on the Champ de Mars, where it is their intention to have operas, dramas, comedies, and vaudevilles performed in all the languages of Europe.

SPAIN threatens to take the Pope under her special protection. The Madrid official paper has an article in which the duty of Catholic States to assist the Pope in case his Holiness should suffer from the September Convention is pointed out.

M. DELANOURE, manager of a company of learned monkeys, proposing to exhibit them at the next fair at Ghent, has not been able to obtain leave for his pupils to pass the Belgian frontier in consequence of the regulations against the transport of cattle.

THE BOILER OF THE STEAMER MIAMI, trading on the Arkansas River, recently exploded, and 150 persons lost their lives. A similar catastrophe occurred to the steamer Missouri, on the Ohio River, and 100 lives were lost.

TWENTY EXTRA CONSTABLES have been put on duty at Pentonville Prison, where the Fenian prisoners are confined. It is said that strict orders have been given that no Irish constable should be engaged on this duty.

PRUSSIA, it is said, is about to inform Austria that a personal union of the duchies with Prussia is the only means of solving the Schleswig-Holstein question. That, no doubt, is the opinion of Prussia. Count von Bismarck has been striving hard to bring about this result.

AN ARRIVAL OF GUANO has just taken place from a new locality, two cargoes having been imported by Messrs. Gibbs, Bright, and Co. from Malden Island, lately discovered in the Pacific. This guano is affirmed to be remarkably rich in phosphates.

RICH GOLD STRATA have been discovered in a high northern latitude of Russian America, better in quality than the auriferous deposits of California. Are we to hear of a rush to these bleak diggings? Russia already extracts gold from her Siberian provinces to the value of 22,000,000 roubles annually.

THE BODY OF A WOMAN, apparently that of an Englishwoman, of about twenty-eight to thirty years of age, was washed ashore on the south-east coast of the island of Hoedie, on Feb. 12. There were three rings on one of the fingers, the inscription on which could not be read; on a remnant of a shift round the neck are the words "Emily de Bonham."

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS have been completely broken off between Russia and the Holy See, as the Russian Government has informed the Papal Government that it has no intention of disavowing the so-called offensive language of Baron Meyendorff to the Pope at a late audience.

THE FENICE THEATRE in Venice has been closed for several years, in token of patriotic mourning. The municipality having recently received orders from the Austrian authorities to reopen the establishment, and to vote the necessary subsidies for that purpose, refused to do so. The Government insisted, and thereupon the municipality resigned in a body.

THE PARIS *Figaro*, some time ago, announced its intention of presenting every subscriber with a box of oranges. Another Parisian journal recently distributed sweetmeats to its subscribers. The *Gazette de Bordeaux*, however, has outdone both, and offers, for the sum of 1000*fr.*, first of all itself for a whole year; secondly, a photograph of the subscriber; and, thirdly, 500 metres of ground, situated ten kilometers from Bordeaux, and near an omnibus station.

ROYAL COURTS AND LEVEES.—The Queen will hold during the ensuing season, at Buckingham Palace, five Courts for the reception and presentation of a certain number of ladies and gentlemen. In order to avoid fatigue to her Majesty, the number of ladies and gentlemen attending each Court will be limited to 250. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales will also, on behalf of her Majesty, hold two Drawingrooms at St. James's Palace, to receive those who cannot be included at her Majesty's Courts under the above regulations. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will also hold Levees at St. James's Palace on her Majesty's behalf. A notification will appear in the *Gazette* of the date of the several Courts in question, and of the regulations to be observed at them.

A PROFESSIONAL EPITAPH.—In the church of Lydford, Devon, is the following curious epitaph:—"Here lies in horizontal position the outside case of George Routledge, watchmaker, whose abilities in that line were an honour to his profession; integrity was the main spring, and prudence the regulator, of all the actions of his life; humane, generous, and liberal, his hand never stopped till he had relieved distress. So nicely regulated were all his actions that he never went wrong, except when set a-going by people who did not know his key; even then he was easily set right again. He had the art of disposing of his time so well that his hours glided away in one continual round of pleasure and delight, till an unlucky minute put a period to his existence. He departed this life Nov. 14, 1862, aged fifty-seven. Wound up in hopes of being taken in hand by his Maker, and of being thoroughly cleaned, repaired, and set a-going in the world to come."

MR. WORMS'S CATTLE PLAGUE MEDICINE.—Mr. Worms, in a letter just published, says:—"Finding from the experience I have recently had respecting my treatment of the rinderpest in this country that, owing probably to the difference in breed, the greater richness of food, and the dissimilarity of climate, the animal can bear a much stronger dose of my medicine here than in Ceylon, I beg to make the following alteration in the quantities prescribed, and shall feel obliged by your giving publicity to it:—Increase the quantity of onions and of garlic each from one pound, as previously stated, to two pounds, the ginger from one pound to one pound and a half, and the asafoetida from three quarters of a pound to one pound and a quarter. Should the animal suffer from scouring, administer the following mixture (for a full-grown animal):—One desert-spoonful of landanum and one wineglassful of tincture of catechu in a pint of thick rice-gruel."

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MASTERS AND WORKMEN.—At a meeting of the directors of Greening and Company (Limited), manufacturers of iron and wire fences, iron gates, &c., held at their offices, in Manchester, on Feb. 12, 1866, it was unanimously resolved:—"That, in order to stimulate the zeal, fidelity, and good-will of the clerks, foremen, and workmen employed by this company, and with a view of enabling them to acquire a substantial interest in the prosperity of the firm, the directors undertake to recommend and support, at the first ordinary meeting of shareholders, the adoption of the following special arrangements:—1st. Whenever the net profits in any one half year exceed 7½ per cent upon the gross paid-up capital of the company, then for every additional 2½ per cent. dividend or bonus paid to the shareholders upon their capital a dividend or bonus of 2½ per cent. shall be paid to every person employed by the company upon the amount of wages earned by him or her in the same half year; provided always that such participation in profits shall not give to any of the workpeople (not being shareholders) any right to interfere in any way in the management of the company's business, nor shall it render them liable to any debts or responsibilities incurred by the company. 2nd. That shares of the company at par value be issued from time to time to the workpeople, and that they be permitted to pay the calls upon same either out of a common fund to be subscribed by them or out of dividends and bonuses accruing to them. 3rd. That these resolutions be printed and circulated amongst the workpeople, with a cordial appeal to them to co-operate in promoting the welfare of the establishment of which they form a part."



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS

LAST week I gave you a list of elected petitions presented. This week I complete the list. The cruelest of these petitions is that against Mr. Chichester Fortescue, the Secretary for Ireland. Mr. Fortescue has, by taking office, vacated his seat, and, but for this petition, would doubtless have been promptly re-elected; but now, before he can stand for Louth, this petition must go before a Committee and be examined, and the authorities say that all this cannot be done before the end of May. It would seem that this petition must have been prompted by a mere desire to hamper the Government, for, whilst the winning candidates, Fortescue and Kennedy, each polled over 600 votes, the losing man polled only six. Perhaps the Government may get Mr. Fortescue out of this hole and checkmate his spiteful opponent by finding the Irish Secretary a seat for some other borough. I have not counted the petitions, but I am told that the number of members petitioned against is seventy-five, or thereabout. Many of the petitions, though, will be withdrawn, no doubt; I should suppose there was at least a score of compromises made on Tuesday, which was the last day for presentation. I see there is a petition against Mr. Brand, the chief whip of the Government. Rumour says it is likely to be successful; but let us hope not; for such a catastrophe would be serious.

## ELECTION PETITIONS.

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| Feb. 14. Chittendenham, against Hon. F. W. H. Berkeley and C. Schreiber. | Feb. 17. Lichfield, against R. Dyott.                          |
| King's County, against Sir Patrick O'Brien.                              | Nottingham, against S. Morley.                                 |
| Lancaster, against E. M. Fenwick and H. W. Schneider.                    | 19. Devonport, against J. Fleming and W. Ferrand.              |
| Northallerton, against C. H. Mills.                                      | Carlisle, against T. O. Stock.                                 |
| 15. Rye, against L. B. Mackinnon.  | Warwick, against J. H. M. Calcraft.                            |
| Harwich, against H. W. J. Jervis and J. Kelk.                            | Sandwich, against Lord C. Paget and E. H. Knatchbull-Buguesen. |
| Hereford (City), against R. Daggall.                                     | Barstaple, against T. Cave and Sir G. Stucley.                 |
| Kildermister, against Albert Grant.                                      | 20. Galway (Borough), against M. Morris and H. Rennerhassett.  |
| 16. Drogheda (Borough), against B. Whitworth.                            | Lewes, against H. B. W. Brand and Lord Pelham.                 |
| Taunton, against A. C. Barclay and Lord William Hay.                     | Beverley, against H. Edwards and C. Sykes.                     |
| Wakefield, against W. H. Leatham.  | West Norfolk, against T. De Grey and Wm. Bagge.                |
| Huddersfield, against T. P. Crossland.                                   | Louth (County), against C. Fortescue and T. Kennedy.           |
| New Windsor, against Sir H. A. Hoare and H. Labouchere.                  | Lincoln (City), against C. Seely and E. Heneage.               |
| Great Yarmouth, against Sir E. K. Lacon and J. Goodson.                  | North Riding, against F. A. Millbank.                          |
| Cambridge (Borough), against Wm. Forsyth.                                | Frome, against Sir H. C. Rawlinson.                            |
| 17. Dover, against A. G. Dickson and C. K. Freshfield.                   | Banbury, against B. Samuelson and Sir T. F. Buxton.            |
|  | King's Lynn, against Lord Stanley.                             |

An art-exhibition, containing many valuable and interesting works, has been opened at the Arundel Club, in Salisbury-street, Strand, for members and their friends. It may be fairly a question how far the comfort of the members is enhanced by this arrangement, but there can be no dispute as to the merit of such pictures as are exhibited. I need only mention the names of Sandys and Rossetti to prove my statement. The Arundel (originally a literary club) was founded some eight years ago, I believe, and the lamented Frank Talford was one of its originators. It has long lost its distinctive character, but some artists still belong to it, and several patrons of art—the latter having, I understand, been the chief promoters of what is really a fine collection.

The new president of the Royal Academy, Mr. Francis Grant, has done what it is nowadays the first duty of every man on obtaining any promotion or new distinction. He has sat for his photograph. Messrs. John and Charles Watkins, of Parliament-street, were the fortunate artists—fortunate in getting the first blush of the new dignity, and fortunate in securing a good likeness.

I have had a glance at a proof of an article which is to appear in the forthcoming number of *Temple Bar*, entitled "A Real Casual on Casual Wards," with an introduction and notes by Mr. J. C. Parkinson, which I am sure will be read with interest. All the details of construction and management of the casual wards of several London workhouses are given, together with the "real casuals" experiences therein; and though the paper is written, or rather has been cast by Mr. Parkinson, in a more matter-of-fact and less picturesque style than the famous letters in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and will therefore be less startling and sensational, it is calculated to do great good, and cannot fail to aid in fixing attention on the system of management—or, more truly, mismanagement—of the metropolitan casual wards. Apropos of this topic, I may mention, what has been for some time sufficiently notorious, that the *Pall Mall Gazette* papers were written by Mr. James Greenwood, author of a variety of works descriptive of vagabond life in London, the most recent of which, "The True History of a Young Ragamuffin," has just been published by Mr. Beeton. The story had previously appeared in the *Young Englishwoman*. Mr. Greenwood is now engaged in writing a series of papers in the *Evening Star*.

I have been doing a bit of lounging out of town since last week, and the ground I chose was the classic and historic region of St. Albans. Of course, I renewed my acquaintance with the grand old abbey church, the spacious nave of which has lately been undergoing a process of cleaning and restoration. As was the case with most old ecclesiastical edifices throughout the country, the walls, pillars, columns, carved work, &c., had been smeared over with a thick coating of whitewash, the removal of which (a work of great difficulty and requiring much care) has disclosed some fine paintings, the colours of which seem as fresh and bright as when first laid on. This process of restoration, when completed, will add greatly to the beauty and interest of one of the finest specimens of sacred architecture, for its extent, in England. I found, too, that St. Michael's Church, in which repose the ashes of the great Francis Bacon, and where is the monument to his memory erected by his secretary, is in course of repair; and, though comparatively a small edifice, the association of Bacon's name and place of repose with it gives it an interest superior, to me, at least, to that even of the abbey church itself. I took a peep at Gorhambury House, once Bacon's residence, but which has ceased to have much to connect it with him. Only a very small portion of the ancient edifice remains; and the Grimstons, Earls of Verulam in these days, true to their motto of "Firm in Mediocrity," have little claim to association in remembrance with him whom Pope called "the greatest, brightest, meanest of mankind." Of course, too, I revisited the scenes of the two battles of St. Albans, fought during the War of the Roses; the first to the east of the town, the second to the north, on Barnard's Heath; but of neither does anything now remain to mark the spots where the white and red roses were alternately victorious. One thing not a little surprised me in connection with the first battle of St. Albans. Shakespeare makes Richard of Gloucester, afterwards the crook-backed Dickon the Third, say of the first champion of the red rose:—"Beneath an alehouse paltry sign, the Castle at St. Albans, did Somerset make good the wizard's words by coming to his end." But I could find no trace of an inn, tavern, or even alehouse of that name having ever existed. Certainly none does at present; which is rather remarkable in these days of Shakespeare-worship. Why don't some enterprising publican dab his house "The Castle," and invent a legend for it? The dodge would be sure to draw custom. I paid a flying visit to Hatfield, and had a peep at the fine residence of the Marquis of Salisbury, which I had not seen before, but which is certainly well worth seeing. One thing struck me as characteristic of the Conservative tendencies of the Cecils. A large number of the windows on the great avenue side of Hatfield House are not glazed, but filled up with slabs of slate. This, I suppose, was done from economical motives in the days of the window tax; and the Marquis, it is to be presumed, is too much of a lover of things as they are to have the slate taken out and the windows reglazed now. I heard, by-the-by, a story which does not indicate that the boasted kindness of Conservative nobles to their dependants distinguishes the noble owner of Hatfield. An old man of eighty-one was pointed out to me, who had spent

fifty years in the service of the family, and had been discharged without pension or provision of any kind, the only reason my informant gave being that the old fellow was "A most used up, Sir." This is the tale as 'twas told to me: I vouch not for its accuracy. I am not much of an agriculturalist; but, if one may judge by the appearance of some fields of winter wheat and oats (which last cereal, by-the-way, I was told was coming greatly into favour in Hertfordshire) I passed in my rambles, there is a fair prospect of an excellent crop this year—that is, if nothing occurs to blight it. I never saw a finer, richer, closer "braird" than in those fields. In gardens in St. Albans I saw peach-trees in full and rich blossom; but the frost of the last few days will have rendered that a premature and ill-judged effort of nature, I fear.

## THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I wish that managers would publish in their public bills, as they used to do, the names of the characters in their pieces, as well as those of the persons who represent them. I have entirely forgotten the names of the characters played by Miss Ada Cavendish, Miss E. Fitzwilliam, Miss Coleman, Mr. Compton, and Mr. Farren in the comedietta, "A Romantic Attachment," produced last week at the Haymarket; and if I want to know them, I have no option but to go to the Haymarket again and buy another housebill. Mr. Compton was so decidedly Mr. Compton, Mr. Farren was so completely Mr. Farren, and Miss Cavendish was so unmistakably Miss Cavendish, that any other names that may have been given them in the bills must have been misnomers. "A Romantic Attachment" is one of those pieces which, being founded on old and well-tried materials, are absolutely and unmistakably safe to go with a public which never enjoys a new joke half as heartily as it does one which it has heard a dozen times. The piece resembles a Parliamentary train: it opens the proceeding of the day; it is very safe, very slow, and mainly third-class. Miss Cavendish loves Mr. Farren, and Mr. Farren loves Miss Cavendish. Miss Cavendish, however, cannot bring Mr. Farren to a declaration because Mr. Farren is somewhat diffident and reserved. So what does Miss Cavendish do but take one Mr. Compton, a booby rustic, and make such desperate love to him as to bring Mr. Farren rapidly to the desired point; and upon Mr. Farren coming to the point in question, Mr. Compton pairs off with his old love, Miss E. Fitzwilliam. It is a piece that you see before you in all its simple beauty as soon as you have heard the first dozen speeches. But it affords Miss Ada Cavendish a means of showing that she is a really valuable acquisition as an actress of genteel comedy to a theatre which relies mainly on its genteel comedy for its success. She is lively, but not boisterous; and she gives her words with distinctness and discrimination. If she will learn to ignore her audience a little more completely—a difficult feat, after a New Royalty education—she may some day rank high as an actress in the school of which Miss Reynolds used to be the representative at this theatre.

That sensation pauper "kind old Daddy" is starring at the Marylebone Theatre with great success, in a piece written expressly for him, and called "The Casual Ward," introducing most of the events and all the dialogue in the famous *Pall Mall* articles. You may, if you like, see the very ward itself—a faithful reproduction of the original, as I was assured by Daddy—in all its (literally) naked hideousness, and there you may see the old gentleman giving the extra blanket to Mr. James Greenwood (or at least his representative—a villain, I regret to say, of the deepest dye) just as he did on the memorable night of his visit. But the most amusing part of the affair is that Daddy has no idea of the real reason of his celebrity, and he attributes the overwhelming applause with which he is nightly greeted to his extraordinary powers as a melodramatic actor! The piece is capably put upon the stage, and is completely successful.

It were well that more of those *blasted* West-Enders, who are always supposed to be on the look-out for a new sensation, would condescend to visit the plebeian ROYAL GRECIAN, and see the astonishing feats that a really clever actor, scene-painter, dramatic author, modeller, and acrobat, all in one, can do. I will undertake to say that not one "swell" in a thousand is aware of the treat that awaits him at the Royal Grecian. To see Mr. George Conquest (who has written the piece, painted some of the scenery, and modelled all the masks) dive headforemost into the solid stage, reappear, a second afterwards, shooting up a dozen feet into the air, half a dozen yards from the spot at which he descended; to see him take this header, and make this reappearance a dozen times in succession without a moment's pause, is a sight to rouse a Danderey to enthusiasm. Moreover, you have Miss Laura Conquest and a ballet of pupils, the eldest of which is under one-and-twenty, capital scenery, and a good pantomimic troupe. I may add, for the information of those for whose special edification this is written, and who are not usually supposed to know anything of East-End localities, that the theatre is situated in the City-road, and is within a two shilling fare from St. James's-street.

I hear that Mr. Arthur Sketchley reopens at the Egyptian Hall on the 10th of March. His entertainment is entirely new; but the sayings and doings of Mrs. Brown will form a prominent feature of the evening's amusement.

**DISEASE AMONGST SHEEP.**—An Order in Council has just been published, which, after reciting that a contagious or infectious disorder, known or described as the sheep-pox, or variola ovina, now prevails among the sheep in a certain part of the United Kingdom, and that it is expedient to take measures for preventing such disorder from spreading, declares that it shall not be lawful for any person to remove any sheep or lambs to or from the parish of Long Buckby, in the county of Northampton, or to drive or conduct any sheep or lambs through or by way of such parish, unless the person so removing, driving, or conducting such sheep or lambs shall first have obtained a certificate in writing, signed by some person who may have been authorised by two or more justices of the said county of Northampton, to seize sheep or lambs infected with or labouring under the said disorder, under the first section of the said Act, that such removal, driving, or conducting may take place without danger of spreading the said disease. All sheep and lambs dying in any of the stages of the said disease, whereof such death or deaths shall or may occur, shall forthwith be buried by the person or persons in whose possession such sheep or lambs may be at the time of death, with their skins on, in pits of not less than 5 ft. in depth, and the carcasses so buried shall be covered with quicklime. All sheds and places whatsoever and all railway trucks and other vehicles which may or shall have been used or occupied by sheep or lambs affected by the said disease, shall forthwith, after having been so used, be thoroughly cleansed with water, and immediately afterwards purified with chloride of lime by the person or persons in possession of such sheds, places, trucks, and vehicles respectively. Every person in possession of any sheep or lambs in or amongst which the said disease shall manifest itself shall forthwith give notice in writing of the fact to the chief constable or superintendent of police of the county or borough in which such sheep or lambs may be. This Order to be in force for three calendar months.

**SUICIDE OF A YOUNG MARRIED WOMAN.**—A young woman who had arrived at the Guildford station on Saturday evening committed suicide by drowning herself in the River Wey the following morning (Sunday), under very painful and extraordinary circumstances. The deceased, who is described as being about twenty-seven years of age and of prepossessing appearance, booked her luggage in the name of G. Chalcraft, and proceeded to the Bear Inn, Friary-street, where she took apartments for the night, and retired to bed at half-past eleven o'clock, having previously requested that two little girls, nieces of the landlady, might be allowed to sleep in the same room. She got up about half-past six o'clock and left the house before the inmates were stirring; but one of the children asked her before she went out whether she was not going to do her hair. She replied, "Not now, darling." A man who had gone to the house to get some beer saw her proceed in the direction of Mill-mead, and then lost sight of her. Several persons, however, saw her on the bank of the river, where she deliberately took off her hat and crinoline and leaped into the stream, which was much swollen by the recent rains. Those who saw her could render no assistance, as she was swept away with great rapidity, and several persons who were standing on the town bridge saw her pass under it, shortly after which she sank. Attempts were made to recover the body, but without success. Before leaving her bed-room the young woman scattered a quantity of money and papers about; and a post-office savings-bank book, dated from Henley-on-Thames, credited the deceased, in the name of Elizabeth Wesley, with £11, was found. It has been ascertained that the deceased, whose maiden name was Chalcraft, was married a few months ago to a tailor named Wesley, residing at Henley-on-Thames, and that she left her husband's house owing to domestic differences. She had, previous to her marriage, lived as domestic servant with Mrs. Smallpiece Shefford, and at that time was considered strange in her manners and not quite right in her mind. Her parents reside at Sunford, near Horsham.

## THE OUTBREAK IN JAMAICA.

FRESH DESPATCHES.

A THIN bluebook of twenty-seven pages, containing further papers relative to the late outbreak in Jamaica, has been laid before Parliament. It contains eleven despatches, with inclosures, from Governor Eyre and Governor Lieutenant-General Sir H. K. Storks, G.C.B. These are dated severally from Dec. 26 of last year to Jan. 8 of the present. There are also fourteen despatches, with inclosures, from Mr. Cardwell to Governor Storks, all written on either Jan. 29 or Feb. 1. Governor Eyre ceased to write on Jan. 8, on which day Sir H. K. Storks was sworn in for his new duties. This event is officially notified by Governor Eyre, who then says:—

I shall transfer to Sir H. Storks all the documents which were being prepared in reply to your despatches relative to the rebellion, and I shall be happy to afford him any information or assistance in my power to facilitate his administration. In giving up to another a government which I have had the honour of administering for four years, under circumstances of great difficulty and trial, I would respectfully request you will be pleased to convey to her Most Gracious Majesty my humble assurance that in the discharge of the onerous and responsible duties which have devolved upon me I have ever been actuated by the single desire to do my duty faithfully to my Sovereign, to uphold the honour of the Crown, and to ensure, as far as practicable, the safety and welfare of the colony and people intrusted to my care. I would also venture to add my confident belief that the inquiry now being instituted will show, that when on the occurrence of the recent atrocious insurrection it became my painful duty to adopt the most prompt and severe measures to repress and prevent the spread of an outbreak which threatened the safety of the entire colony, those steps were just and necessary under the circumstances, and that had I hesitated to adopt them and accept the personal responsibility and risk which they entailed, I should have been unworthy of the high position I occupied, and of the trust reposed in me.

Mr. Cardwell, in reply to this letter, wrote to Governor Storks on Feb. 1:—

I request that you will inform Mr. Eyre that I fully appreciate the readiness he has evinced to facilitate your administration of the government, and that I shall hasten to convey to the Queen the assurance he desires should be submitted to her Majesty of the motives by which he has been actuated in the discharge of the onerous and responsible duties of his office.

On Jan. 1 Governor Eyre addressed a despatch in answer to that one of the Colonial Secretary making inquiries in reference to the publication of Dr. Underhill's letter in Jamaica. The Governor says:—"In reply, I have to state that I did not direct, authorise, or in any way sanction the publication of that letter, nor do I know in what manner, or through whom, it was made public." He points out that the document was forwarded in a circular letter to the custodes and ministers of religion of all denominations, including the Baptist, to which Dr. Underhill belongs. "Dr. Underhill asserts, indeed, in a letter addressed to the *Times*," continues Governor Eyre, "my letter was published by Governor Eyre in the *Island Gazette*," and that "for its publication, and the effects consequent upon it, I must decline the responsibility which Governor Eyre wishes to fasten upon me. This responsibility is his, not mine." This is simply an untruth. I have already stated that no such publication took place by my direction, or with my knowledge or sanction, nor did it ever appear in the *Island Gazette*. In another despatch of the same date, received on Jan. 30, the Governor says:—"I would respectfully bring to your notice in proof that I am, and have ever been, most unwilling to resort to so extreme a measure unless under the most imminent and pressing emergency, the facts that I declined to proclaim martial law over the city of Kingston, when urgently requested to do so by the Executive Committee and by the Custos and Justices of Kingston, many of whom were members of the Legislature of the colony (as reported in my despatch No. 251 of the 20th of October), and that I again declined to proclaim martial law over the western parishes of the colony, when requested to do so by the Major-General commanding her Majesty's troops in this colony, as reported in my despatch No. 264, of the 3rd of November last." Concerning which Mr. Cardwell, on the day after he received the despatch, wrote to Governor Sir H. K. Storks:—"I request that you will inform Mr. Eyre that the facts to which he adverts, as showing his unwillingness to have recourse to the proclamation of martial law, have not been overlooked by her Majesty's Government." The despatches from the Colonial Office in this collection are nearly all brief.

## GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND.

The bill introduced into Parliament by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to provide for the constitution of a new form of government for Jamaica, in place of the Legislature under which the island has hitherto been governed, is in the following terms:—

Whereas two Acts were passed by the Legislature of Jamaica during a Session held in this present year of her Majesty, intitled, respectively, "An Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution of this Island," "An Act to amend an Act passed in the present Session, intitled 'An Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution of this Island,'" and it is expedient that the said Acts should be brought into operation, under the authority of Parliament, in the manner and to the extent hereinafter set forth: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. So much of said recited Acts as is contained in the accompanying schedule shall come into operation in the island of Jamaica so soon as the assent thereto of her Majesty in Council shall have been proclaimed in the said island by the officer administering the government thereof, and, unless continued by authority of Parliament, shall cease to be in force at the expiration of three years from the date of such proclamation.

2. In construing the said secondly recited Act the term "Government" shall be held to include "Legislature;" and the powers exercised by her Majesty under the said Act shall be exercisable by her Majesty in Council.

## SCHEDULE.

An Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution of this Island. Whereas it is necessary to alter the present political Constitution of this Island: Be it enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly of this island, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, First, that from and after coming into operation of this Act, the present Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and all and every the functions and privileges of those two bodies respectively, shall cease and determine absolutely.

An Act to amend an Act passed in the present Session, intitled "An Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution of this Island."

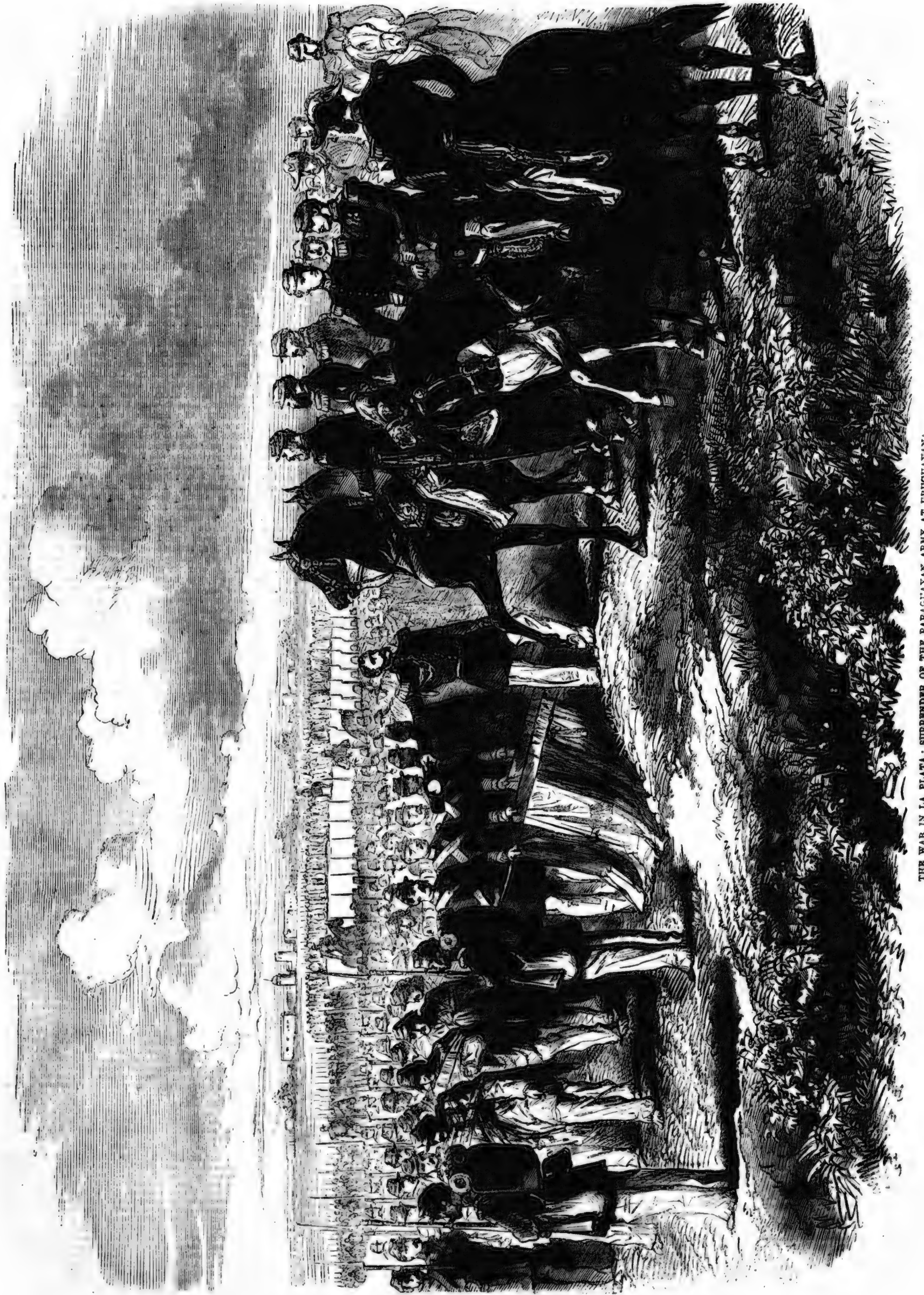
Whereas an Act was passed by the Legislature of this island during the present Session, intitled "An Act to alter and amend the Political Constitution of the island;" and whereas it is desirable that the same should be amended: Be it therefore enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly of this island, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,

In place of the Legislature abolished by the first section of the recited Act it shall be lawful for her Majesty the Queen to create and constitute a Government for this island in such form and with such powers as to her Majesty may seem best fitting, and from time to time to alter or amend such Government.

**AN EXTINCT GIGANTIC NEW ZEALAND BIRD.**—The fossil remains of a gigantic bird, estimated to have stood 25 ft. high, have been discovered in some beds of limestone at Nelson, in New Zealand. The remains consist of a head, minus the lower jaw, the dimensions of which are 3 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 10 in.; the orbit of the eye measured 4 in. by 2 in.; also a body minus the neck; the thorax is highly developed, but rather flat, the tail long, and body bulky; the wings, which are well defined, are large and close to the body, and are separated by a saddle or cradle very graceful in form; the feathers covering the body are of a large size and lying close.

**THE EMPLOYMENT OF GIRLS IN COLLIERIES.**—A girl, twelve years of age, has been crushed to death in a colliery near Wigan, under circumstances which suggest the necessity for an alteration or amendment in the law respecting the employment of children in mines. The deceased was engaged to remove trucks full of coal from one portion of the pit and to replace them with empty trucks. She appears, however, to have entered upon the duty without any instructions from those in authority. Without such instructions it is not surprising that she failed to apply the break at the proper moment, and, becoming alarmed, she ran in front of the waggon in the childish hope of impeding their progress. In this, of course, she was unsuccessful, and she was struck with the buffers and fatally injured. The evidence at the inquest showed that although colliery proprietors are liable to penalties for employing boys under a certain age, yet the law has not thrown a similar protection over girls, who are often, when only ten or twelve years old, employed in mines in the neighbourhood of Wigan. It cannot be doubted that the omission to extend the limitation as to age to young girls was wholly unintentional on the part of the Legislature; and the objections to their employment in collieries are so grave that we are confident they only need to be brought under the attention of Parliament to be promptly remedied.





THE WAR IN LA PLATA: SURRENDER OF THE PARAGUAYAN ARMY AT URUCUAYÁN.





ENCAMPMENT OF THE BRAZILIAN CONTINGENT IN THE UNEXPLORED FORESTS OF GOTAZ.

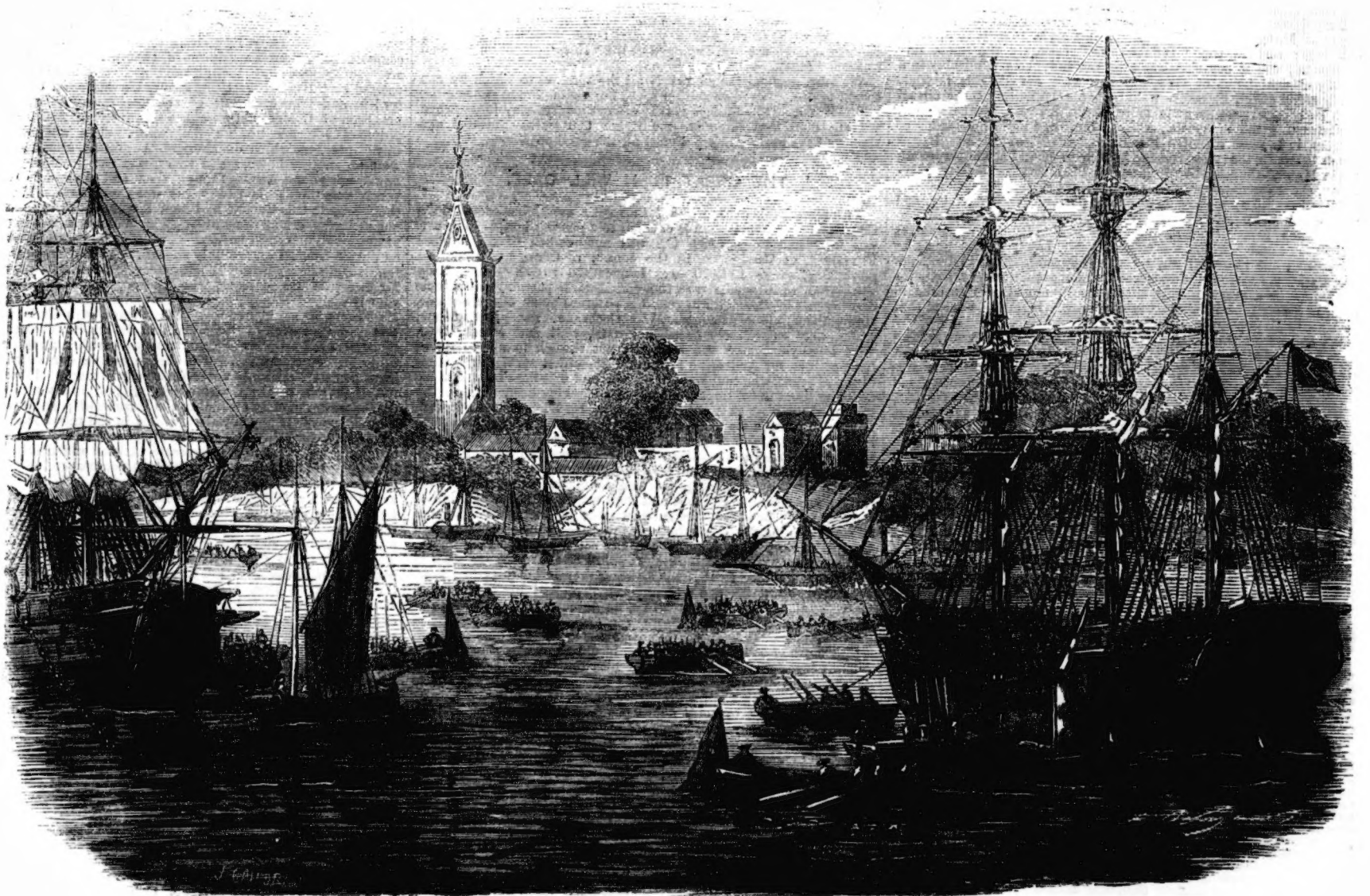
**THE WAR IN LA PLATA.**

We have already from time to time followed the course of that conflict which continues to rage between the South American Republics of La Plata, and our readers will remember that we recently gave some particulars of the battle of Yatay, in which the allied forces gained a complete advantage over the Paraguayans. The latter had been compelled to retire to the town of Uruguayana, which was surrounded by the troops of the enemy on three sides,

while the only other outlet led to the stream, which they had no means of crossing. The Paraguayan commander, Antonio Estigarribia, at first replied to the proposal to surrender with indignation, and it may easily be supposed that he had some hopes of assistance from President Mitre. The invading army on the side of the Parana, commanded by Robles, on its approach from the province of Entre-Rios, succeeded in demoralising, and even disbanding, the forces of that district, and would have been equally successful

in other quarters had it not been suppressed. The entrance of a considerable force of Paraguayans to Santa Fé would have produced similar results; but the advance of any such force was entirely prevented by the presence of the Brazilian squadron.

However, the previously divided forces of the allies which had served to avert these evils, when once united before Uruguayana, amounted to 20,000 men, and the river was occupied by four Brazilian sloops of war. His Majesty Don Pedro II., President



ARRIVAL OF BRAZILIAN REINFORCEMENTS AT CORRIENTES.



Mitre, and Governor Flores meeting at the camp, the armies marched to the assault, quite up to the enemy's intrenchment. General Estigarribia then, seeing there was no hope, capitulated, and the forces under his command lowered their arms and defiled in a broken column before the Emperor and their successful opponents. About 7000 prisoners were taken, amongst whom 1000 were sick or wounded. Five field pieces, all the armament and munitions of war, and seven flags, were taken possession of by the allied troops.

His Majesty issued orders for the proper treatment of the prisoners. This was but the beginning of the successes of the allies, however; and anyone who has paid attention to those troublesome histories of the insurrections of South American peoples and the wars of small republics will be quite prepared to hear that the Paraguayans are as lively and active as ever; for the affairs of Yatay and Uruguayana were but the opening scenes of the great struggle which is shortly expected to take place at Paso de la Patria. The Paraguayans are actively engaged in strengthening their works there and erecting batteries to command the crossing of the river; while the allies are busy in exercising their men, in collecting and preparing materials for the attack, and in the building of a large number of boats and other means of transport of the troops across the Parana. This river is 1200 yards wide at Paso de la Patria, and has a large island in the middle, which, it is probable, will play an important part in the attack and defence. Other points in the neighbourhood offer facilities for crossing; but no attempts are likely to be made by the allies until everything is ready and combined for a simultaneous bombardment and cannonade of the Paraguayan defences by the fleet and numerous artillery of the army. The land forces there consist of about 15,000 Argentines, 800 Orientals, and 32,000 Brazilians, the latter of which, and also the Argentines, to some extent, were receiving considerable augmentations. The health of the troops on the whole continued tolerable, but it is said that the mortality and sickness among the last arrivals are large. The fleet lies in its former position awaiting the great rise, which had not yet occurred, though partial freshets had taken place. The ironclad Brazil and three gun-boats would ascend with the first setting in of the great freshet. Several transport steamers were arriving at Corrientes with troops and supplies.

### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE ENGLISH OPERA has come to an untimely end. The English Opera Company, however, still exists, and, by issuing fresh debentures, if it only puts forth a sufficient number and succeeds in getting them taken, may, we suppose, prolong its existence for an indefinite period. It is still announced from day to day by advertisement that Drury Lane will be opened by the company in April for the performance of opera and ballet. All the talent in Europe, with the exception of the talent already secured by the directors of our two Italian operas and a number of operatic managers on the Continent, is to be engaged; and it is rumoured—though on this point no positive announcement has yet been made—that the prices of admission will be not less than those charged at her Majesty's Theatre and at the Royal Italian Opera. We are told that English opera will rise from its ashes on the wings of "Phœnixian" David (as we may be allowed on this occasion to call him), and that the first attraction offered to the public will be that composer's "Lalla Rookh." The English Opera Company (Limited) will still give its operatic performances in the English language; but as, for the present, there seems to be no English operas worth bringing out, it will produce translations of celebrated foreign works. Some of the sentimental "operas comiques" of France, such as "Le pré aux Clercs" and "La Dame Blanche," would have a fair chance of success in England. Ballets, too, if sufficiently well performed, might prove attractive. There must be numbers of young opera-goers in England who have never once seen a ballet in the style of "Giselle," "La Sylphide," and "Esmeralda."

The National Choral Society gave a performance, on Wednesday evening, of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise," followed by Rossini's "Stabat Mater." The former is one of the stock pieces of this association, and there is, perhaps, no work in which its excellent chorus is heard to more advantage than in the celebrated "Lobgesang." With the "Stabat Mater" Mr. Martin's singers are less familiar; and of the principal vocalists who took part in it last Wednesday, two—Mr. Leigh Wilson and Miss Franklin—did so, we believe, for the first time. But the most interesting event of the evening was the reappearance of Mme. Parepa, who has just returned from America with a voice strengthened and improved, and with a style which needed no improvement, and which remains as perfect as ever. Mme. Parepa had already sung, or at least had been announced to sing, at concerts; but until Wednesday night she had appeared in no work of importance. The music of Rossini's "Stabat Mater" is better suited to her style than that of most oratorios; and in the "Inflammatus" certainly the most impassioned piece it contains, she sang not only very admirably in a purely musical point of view, but also with considerable fervour. The general effect, however, would have been better if the choral part had been sung a little more distinctly. Mr. Martin's choir includes a great many fine voices; but, like all large bodies of singers, it is most effective in slow, massive movements. It was much better in the piece for the bass, with choral accompaniment, "Eia Mater," than in the "Inflammatus." Here the chorus is everything, the answers being far more important than the questions.

Miss Franklin sang the air "Fac ut portem" very carefully, and with excellent expression. Nor did she lose the opportunity of distinguishing herself, in company with Mlle. Parepa, in the duet "Quis est homo," which was encored. Mr. Leigh Wilson was also encored in the beautiful air, "Cujus animam." Nevertheless, this usually very successful singer was by no means in good voice. Indeed, in spite of very evident efforts, he did not always succeed in making himself heard above the orchestra. It must be added that he was, to all appearances, indisposed.

We learn from the *Musical World* that some musicians are getting up a concert for that excellent and universally respected singer Mr. H. Corri (of the English opera), who has been seriously ill for nearly five months, and wholly incapacitated from pursuing his professional avocations. Several distinguished artists have tendered their services, among others Miss Louisa Pyne, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mme. Arabella Goddard. The concert is to take place at Covent-garden Theatre, on the afternoon of the 14th of March.

THE IRISH FENIANS.—The Irish Executive has not been slow in availing itself of the powers conferred by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. A large number of persons have been arrested in Dublin and elsewhere, among whom are the "Deputy Head Centre," Mr. McDonnell, and two American officers named Gleeson, brothers, one of whom held the rank of brigadier-general and the other that of captain in the United States army. Most of the prisoners have been lodged in the prisons of Mountjoy, Kilmainham, and Spike Island. On the fact becoming known that the Habeas Corpus Act would be suspended, a complete rush of American and English Fenians took place from Dublin. All the steamers to Liverpool were crowded, many of the agitators immediately taking ship thence to America. Some of those who remained in the Irish capital endeavoured to disguise themselves by sacrificing their luxurious transatlantic beards. The barbers had a busy time of it in consequence.

A BOLD HORSEWOMAN.—An exciting incident occurred recently in connection with the meet for the day's run with Lord Middleton's hounds. Mrs. Sarony, of Scarborough, who is known to be about the best horsewoman in the neighbourhood, had mounted for trial a horse she desired to purchase. After leaving Scarborough, Mrs. Sarony, with other riders, entered Jackson's lane, when suddenly her horse started off at the top of his speed, and dismounted all his companions through the lane. The gates were all open save one—a very high gate—which the spectators fully believed would bring the horse up. But not so, for with a surprising leap he cleared the gate, alighting on a slack ground on the other side, and, shooting away again, ran his halcyon race madly and hotly for about three miles. Mrs. Sarony, keeping her seat in the most dashing and courageous manner. Not knowing, however, where or how the caprice of the animal might end, she prudently determined to watch for an opportunity to slip off. Having passed through Cayton, like Johnny Gilpin, all hatless the while, Mrs. Sarony prepared to part company with her horse, and having succeeded in drawing him on one side, she dextrously slid from the saddle, and alighted on the grassy bank at the roadside, fortunately, without the slightest injury. The horse still kept on until he passed Kilderry Hall, some distance, when he was captured and sent home.

### FINE ARTS.

#### THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

In landscape the Middle Room possesses "North Shields" (214), by Mr. J. Danby; "Up the Lane" (232), by Mr. T. G. Linnell; "A View on the Midway" (272), by Mr. H. T. Dawson, jun.; and a charming bit, entitled "On the River—Daybreak" (297), by Mr. Teniswood.

Mr. Dillon, who has, by-the-way, a fine picture in the North Room, of which we omitted mention, is represented here by a noble painting, "The Last Journey" (242)—the funeral of an ancient Egyptian, who is being borne, by sunset, along the Nile to the Lake of the Dead. "Santa Lucia" (245), is one of the warmest and best pictures Mr. Cooke has given us for a long time; and there is fine light and air in Mr. Oakes's "Stressa" (282). Mr. A. Gilbert gives us one of his usual moonlights, "The Cuchullin Hills" (399), painted with his accustomed skill. We have not space to do more than mention Mr. G. Cole's "Rough Road Over the Heath" (287), Mr. Hayes's "Life-boat" (367), Mr. Jutsum's "Country Lane" (335), and Mr. Peel's "Stepping-stones" (371).

Of Mr. Hablot Browne's pictures it is too early to speak, for he is either so new at the material or has not painted for so long a time that his hand is not in full practice yet, though his designs are full of his old spirit and grace.

In the South Room among the figure-subjects the most prominent are Mr. Long's Toledan "Shepherds" (483), a large and vigorous canvas; the "Brother's Dream" (509), a delightful picture, full of the poetry and the colour with which Mr. Fitzgerald enhances a happy selection of subjects; "Canterbury Cloisters" (559), a quaint picture, by Mr. Yeames; and "A Dutch Wedding" (628), by Miss Kate Swift, who has carried sobriety of colour almost to an extreme in it. Mr. E. C. Barnes, whose reputation is now fairly established, exhibits a picture well worthy of it—"Old Letters" (531), not a new subject, perhaps, but originally and pleasingly treated.

Mr. Goldie's "St. Cecily" (514), an illustration of Chaucer's "Nonne's Tale," is in quite a new style for this rising artist. The angel is perhaps a little stiff, but the other figures are good—that of the saint charming. There is a pleasing quality of colour and great feeling in the treatment of the subject. Yet we think Mr. Goldie may content himself with thus much success, and will do well not to experiment further in this direction. We must also, before passing to other classes of painting, draw attention to Mr. A. H. Weigall's "Bribery and Corruption" (508).

A little head of "Elsie" (453) is Mr. Wyburd's sole contribution this year. Mr. Holyoake has a nice little picture "The Playfellow" (484), and Mr. Liddendale a good study of expression in "The Weary Task" (468). Mr. Rossiter's single picture is "The Sibyl" (521), a pleasing little painting. Mr. Thom's "Making the Bouquet" (527) is one of the best things in the gallery. In this room Mr. Lutyens has one or two spirited and true hunting-pictures. Mr. Aster Corbould exhibits more of his faithful portraits of Highland kine, and Mr. Horlor again attracts attention by some remarkable animal-painting. His "Colley and Pups" (476), is really excellent. Mr. A. D. Cooper's "Guilty Conscience" (549) is very good too.

First of the landscapes comes Mr. Mignot's "Woods at Richmond" (537)—a picture which proves him equally at home with nature in her quiet English moods and in her tropical splendours; a very pastoral, full of truth and beauty. A namesake of Mr. Mignot's exhibits a clever picture of "Desolation" (494). Mr. J. Danby's "Château Chillon" (416); Mr. McIntyre's wood, entitled "Gurth and Wamba" (428); Mr. Provis's "Breton Interior" (459); Mr. Nibbs's "Shoreham Harbour" (489); Mr. Finnie's "Flowery Bank" (520); Mr. Rose's "Honeydale" (532); Mr. Teniswood's "Moorland Stream" (534); Mr. Raven's "From ye Quicke" (560); and Mr. Dearle's "River Bank" (561), all deserve a more extensive mention than our space permits us. Mr. Boddington's "Cader Idris" (623) is hardly up to his standard. Mr. J. Gilbert's "Timber-Cart" (611) reminds us of Gainsborough, which is no slight praise. Mr. C. J. Lewis's "Brook" (598) is a snatch of lovely English scenery such as he paints so deftly. "The Pass of Glencoe" (600) is boldly and broadly painted by Mr. Williams, who introduces a few of the peasants seeking refuge after the atrocious massacre which stains the early pages of the Hanoverian chronicles. A "Heath Scene" (590), by Mr. Niemann; "Chamouni" (583), by Mr. Pettitt; and "Evening on the South Coast" (573), by Mr. A. Gilbert, are pictures which should by no means be missed. They are fine specimens of the powers of artists whose names and styles are familiar and popular. "Trebarwith Sand" (570), by Mr. Pollard; Mr. Pilleau's "Cairo" (445); and "The Lee Shore" (572), by Mr. Knell, are deserving of a passing mention. "Monte Viso" (544) is one of Mr. Elijah Walton's well-known Alpine pictures: his powers of depicting Eastern scenery are well displayed in the "Encampment on the road to Sinai" (491).

We have now exhausted nearly all the pictures to which we can award praise. We have neither space nor inclination to censure the bad pictures. How numerous they are our readers may judge when we tell them that there are more than 600 works exhibited, and that we have particularised almost all the good ones.

### THE GREAT IRISH WILL CASE.

(From the Times.)

THE remarkable cause which for almost a month has occupied the Court of Probate in Dublin is entitled to a passing notice. The suit was instituted to establish the will and codicil of Sir Edward Fitzgerald, of Carrigoran, in the county of Clare, by which his personality, worth £11,000, was bequeathed to his widow, Lady Fitzgerald, with remainder as to a considerable portion, to the male descendants of Colonel Fitzgerald, a paternal uncle of the testator, through the Colonel's daughter, Mrs. Cochrane. These instruments, which were respectively dated February, 1861, and March, 1862, were legally executed and attested; but though in all points of form correct, Sir Augustine Fitzgerald, the eldest surviving brother of Sir Edward, who had become his heir and first next of kin on his death without issue, impeached them as having been obtained by unfair means from an incapable testator. Sir Edward's lands, worth £6000 a year, were conveyed by two deeds, which bore date December, 1860, and August, 1861, to the same persons as his personal estate, and in a similar course of succession, with this difference, that Lady Fitzgerald took the entire realty for life only, her share in part of the personality being absolute. These deeds were questioned on similar grounds, and their validity must be determined in Chancery; but they were fully in issue in the recent trial, the circumstances under which they were prepared connecting them with the will and codicil as different parts of the same transaction.

We can only glance at the salient points of the enormous mass of evidence adduced. In 1847 Sir Edward, then in his forty-first year, succeeded to the title and estates, having received his education at Oxford, and having afterwards been an Attaché during many years at Berlin and Vienna. He was a refined, graceful, and accomplished gentleman, though even at that time the continual dissipation in which he had long unhappily indulged had seriously impaired a robust constitution. The history of his subsequent life down to his death, in the autumn of last year, is a terrible example of the effects of vice in reducing a mind, originally sound, to a state in which its capacity to think or form a purpose becomes questionable. Sir Edward's time was usually spent at Carrigoran or in visits to Dublin; and he was proved to have been continually addicted at both places to habits of drunkenness, which, acting on an enfeebled frame, produced melancholy consequences. He never, indeed, was actually demented or subject to that frightful disease which is the special penalty of intoxication; and there was much evidence that, even to the last, he displayed a certain amount of intelligence; that under his care his property improved; that he was sometimes able to receive guests and converse with them in an agreeable manner; and that, in the common affairs of life, such as paying debts or executing leases, he was, when sober, capable of business. But, on the other hand, there can be no doubt

that during the last ten years of his life, and therefore long before the period at which the instruments in dispute were signed, he had sunk into a state of debasement, in which his whole nature appeared changed; he was held hardly responsible for his conduct, and imbecility seemed imminent. The graceful gentleman became a paralytic of wretched aspect and filthy habits; the gay attaché degenerated into a brainless sot, an indecent talker, a petty pilferer; the trained and accomplished man of the world became an object of scorn or compassion. Shunned by his equals, expelled from clubs, unfit for active or social life, Sir Edward Fitzgerald, after fifty, was a mere decaying wreck, his body a mass of weakness and disease, his mind, with some remains of intelligence, declining into premature decrepitude.

In 1856 Sir Edward married Lady Fitzgerald, the widow of an officer in our service, and of a family well known in Ireland. It is a sign of Sir Edward's state of mind that he took this step against the entreaty of Sir Benjamin Brodie and other physicians, and that, not long before, when in a condition described as almost that of a monster, he made proposals to three or four young ladies, who, we need not add, contemptuously rejected them. We will say, however, for Lady Fitzgerald, that whatever opinion may be formed as to some part of her subsequent conduct, she proved a faithful and attentive nurse to the abject creature who called her his wife, though it is difficult to suppose that such a relation could have ever really existed between them. In 1858 and 1860 Colonel Fitzgerald paid two long visits at Carrigoran, and on both occasions he appears to have gained a very high place in Lady Fitzgerald's favour. As for his host, while lamenting his pitiable condition, and even treating it with contempt, he gave him frequently judicious advice, which happened in 1859 to take the shape of very severe remarks on certain relations of Sir Edward, immediately within the line of succession, who had been grossly insulted by him, and thenceforward became alienated. Augustine Fitzgerald, Sir Edward's brother, with his son Austin, then a young man of about twenty-six or twenty-seven, came to Carrigoran for a considerable part of the summer and autumn of 1860, Colonel Fitzgerald, as we collect, being a guest there also for some of this time, and Lady Fitzgerald being, of course, the hostess. Sir Edward hitherto had always shown the strongest affection for his brother and his son, of which indeed conclusive proof was existing in the form of two wills, made in 1854 and 1858, by which he had bequeathed them his whole estates, and it is certain that for several months after the circumstances we shall presently relate this feeling continued without abatement. Young Austin, however, became obnoxious to Lady Fitzgerald and the Colonel. Still it must be observed that this young man was little better than a *mauvais sujet*, that he encouraged his miserable uncle in his excesses, and was most impertinent to Lady Fitzgerald. In October, 1860, Lady Fitzgerald suddenly left Carrigoran, driven from it, as she distinctly stated, by the threats and insolence of her nephew, which, though obviously exaggerated by her, were certainly in a high degree offensive. The next day this young gentleman composed and published a series of placards containing a vulgar account "of the flight of an elderly lady with a cast in her eye," and several of them were directed by him to Lady Fitzgerald and some of her relations. Lady Fitzgerald, on the receipt of one, requested a cousin, Mr. William Brereton, a Queen's counsel and a county judge, who figures prominently in these proceedings, to set off for Carrigoran at once, and to take measures for her protection. Mr. Brereton fulfilled his mission *con amore*, and informed young Austin that a criminal prosecution for libel would be commenced against him unless he left Carrigoran or Ireland. The young man consented to this, though he fancied that the whole thing was a joke; and his feeble uncle ruefully acquiesced, it being alleged that when apprised of the facts he expressed amazement and indignation. It is certain, however, that he had been long before aware of the affair of the placard, and had with glee connived at it; that he rejoiced at the disappearance of his wife, of whom he had begun to stand in awe; that he shed tears at his nephew's removal, and that he repeatedly spoke of him in terms of fond though maudlin sympathy.

After this time Lady Fitzgerald seems to have hated young Austin with the most bitter hatred. She excluded him from her house in Dublin—Sir Edward having been brought to that city soon afterwards by severe illness—and caused him to be summoned to a police court for making overtures of conciliation. These feelings, too, she transferred to his father, who having made affectionate inquiries as to the health of his invalid brother, in which he incidentally alluded to the placard business as a sorry jest, was treated by her to a furious reply meant to prohibit any further intercourse, and insinuating his complicity with his son, of which he was certainly wholly innocent. About this time (November, 1860) Mr. Brereton reappears on the scene, having been repeatedly, since his visit to Carrigoran, in communication with Lady Fitzgerald, especially as to young Austin's conduct. Mr. Brereton informs us that Sir Edward, being then in a very exhausted state, though rallying from a late acute attack, expressed his intention of settling finally his estates on Lady Fitzgerald for life, and thence on one of the Cochrane family, as the eldest grandson of Colonel Fitzgerald, an annuity of £1000 a year being provided for his brother Augustine. The alleged reason of this disposition, which disinherited Augustine and his son, not to mention another brother and sister, was the profligacy and misbehaviour of young Austin, though then and afterwards this luckless youth was fondly loved by his unhappy uncle. Mr. Brereton, though up to this time he had been Sir Edward's ordinary counsel, and had even drawn the will of 1858, declined to act in this matter professionally, though he said he would co-operate as a friend, and he proved himself exceedingly zealous. It being suggested that the family solicitor would not like to undertake the business, a friend of Mr. Brereton was selected, who, indeed, had been employed previously against young Austin at the police-office. This gentleman, Mr. Kenny by name, had several interviews with Sir Edward in the first or second week of December, and the result was that in a very short time a deed of settlement was prepared, a final arrangement being in contemplation. The circumstances connected with this instrument are certainly not without significance. It extended to the whole line of the Cochrane family the gift originally confined to one, thus more completely excluding the Fitzgeralds; and it contained a singular power of appointment, which, in the actual state of affairs, would have probably given Lady Fitzgerald an absolute control over the property. This, too, apparently without any directions from the intended grantor, who was too feeble to comprehend an intricate conveyance, even had an explanation been given to him. It should be added that Mr. Brereton was often in communication with the professional gentlemen to whom the deed was, in fact, committed, and that the present Attorney-General for Ireland expressed a strong disapproval of it when the draught was submitted for his revision. The deed, as altered by Mr. Lawson, though not without a significant hint as to the litigation it would probably cause, was signed by Sir Edward on Dec. 27, in the presence of Messrs. Brereton and Kenny, it being stated that its irrevocable nature was then fully explained to him. That he did not, however, comprehend this is proved by the indisputable fact that a few days after he was under the belief that he could change or amend the deed at pleasure; and, having regard to his enfeebled state, it is exceedingly difficult to suppose that he was fully aware of what he was doing. During all this time, it is worthy of remark that Colonel, Lady, and Sir Edward Fitzgerald were in constant communication with each other, and that Mr. Brereton, though he scorned a fee, was most active in his friendly offices. The whole truth with respect to the matter will, probably, never be ascertained, more especially as the Colonel declined to appear in court as a witness, on the ground of his age and infirmities, and could not be compelled to attend, being resident beyond the Irish jurisdiction. Some facts, however, are sufficiently clear, and point, perhaps, to a variety of conclusions. Lady Fitzgerald declares that during all this time she was advising her husband against her interests, and was recommending to him the brother whom she had just done her best to alienate, but that Sir Edward's positive resolution overcame her righteous though feeble purpose. Colonel Fitzgerald actually wrote







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